

# THE DISSECTOR.

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NO. 3.

*Case of Epileptic and other fits, Delirium, Neuralgia, Vomiting, and the discharge of Arsenic taken long previously, successfully treated with Mesmerism, which produced intuitive knowledge of the internal state, the future course of the Disease, and the proper treatment. By J. C. LUXMOORE, Esq., of Alphington, Devon.*

*(Concluded from the April No.)*

ed, and the arsenic acting on the system is poisoning the blood, and also the water that is floating about me; this makes the rash so troublesome."

March 31st. Rash still troublesome; chest and stomach painful. Mesmerized two hours.

April 1st. Mesmerized. Rash has partially disappeared, owing to a slight chill: says, "it will appear again before the 3d; it is now looking very angry in the stomach."

April 2d. Rash a little more out; slight tic. Mesmerized.

April 3d. Tic came on this morning, in exact accordance with Mrs. Bird's prediction. No tongue can describe what she appeared to suffer. At 3 o'clock, P. M., the tic ceased, and I got her into sleep-waking. Previously to this, although I had been with her a long time, all my endeavors to produce sleep were unavailing. At a quarter after 3, the spasms commenced; the six occupied twenty-five minutes, and were very violent. After they were over, she said, "I shall get on tolerably until the 16th of this month, when I shall have either seven or eight spasms about the head and heart; they will last nearly an hour. On the 16th I should be under mesmerism from 12 to 2 o'clock. After this I shall have a severe head-ache for three days; if it lasts to the fourth, I must have aperient medicine; and if to the fifth, should be bled." On arousing she was quite free from tic, but her head and face were sore from the effects of it.

April 4th. Free from tic, which much surprised her, and quite unconscious of having suffered from spasms. Mesmerized two hours.

April 5th. Mesmerized one hour and three quarters, and said, "There is little water in my chest, the weather is much against me" (rain has fallen and there is great dampness in the air). "On the 16th, the spasm will be the worst. I fear Mr. Luxmoore will require assistance to hold me, but no one but himself must touch my forehead or over my heart; it would be dangerous." Chest mesmerically electrified.

April 6th. Mesmerized. Says, "The water in my chest is not much increased." I made, by her direction, passes with the flat hand from chest to feet: this produced slight swelling of the feet. Her chest was again mesmerically electrified, and she observed yellow fire follow the tips of my fingers. The electricity of yesterday, she says, prevented the breathing being as bad as it otherwise would have been.

April 7th. Breathing bad. Mesmerized, and said the water in the chest will be thrown off on Saturday (April), at 5 o'clock. Chest again electrified, and she saw ribbons of fire pass through the water, which they seemed to warm.

April 8th. Breathing still bad; was frightened again last night by two men entering her garden. Passes with the flat hand made her feet swell.

April 9th. Breathing bad. Mesmerized three hours and a half; says, "Whenever the coating is removed from the stomach, I must have a strong dose of aperient medicine, to prevent any portion remaining in the bowels."

April 10th. Mesmerized one hour and three quarters; feels better, except the breathing.

April 11th. Threw off five pints of water this morning. Mesmerized, and said, "I shall throw off a little more water at 5 o'clock to-morrow."

April 12th. More water having been ejected, the breathing is much better. Mesmerized one hour and forty minutes.

April 13th. Breathing still better. Mesmerized, and said, "I fear I must be bled on

the 21st, as the head-ache will not pass off without it."

April 14th and 15th. Slight spasms while asleep, otherwise comfortable. Mesmerized both days.

April 16th. Mr. Parker and I visited Mrs. Bird at ten minutes before 12 o'clock; we found her on the floor quite delirious. In less than two minutes I mesmerized her into sleep-waking, and she became sane and tractable. The spasms shortly commenced, and increased in violence to the fifth, which was truly frightful; and during which, she, notwithstanding all my efforts, assisted by Mr. Parker, threw herself on the floor, carrying me with her, and pulling out her hair by handfuls; the next two spasms were not so bad, and the last was very slight. Soon after the spasms had ceased, she said, "Between this and the 21st, mesmerism must, on no account, be omitted for twenty-four hours together, and, on that day, I should be twice under its influence. I shall have bad spasms on the 1st of June." Soon after arousing, a severe head-ache came on, as she had said would be the case.

April 17th. Head-ache continues. Mesmerized four hours; says she shall have spasms, daily, more or less until the 9th of June.

April 18th. Head still aches. Mesmerized two hours; says there is water in the chest.

April 19th. Head-ache and slight spasms. Mesmerized, and then said, "I shall have rather a severe spasm while under mesmerism this evening (she was correct). They must not attend to any directions I may give on the 21st, however plausible they may appear to be. I should be bled on that day at 12 o'clock, and not aroused from mesmerism until half-past 2. Persons subject to insanity should always be mesmerized by the same operator. If I were mesmerized by any one but Mr. Luxmoore, I should be insane until the 9th of June. I shall be ill on the 2d of May, and should be mesmerized in the evening."

April 20th. Took a strong dose of medicine as directed. Mesmerized, and said the medicine has had the desired effect, in removing an obstruction.

April 21st. At 11 A.M., I found Mrs. Bird delirious; she had been rather violent. At half-past 11, I commenced mesmerizing her; in two minutes she was in sleep-waking, and the delirium had almost ceased; she might wander for a sentence or two, but soon detected herself. At twenty-five minutes after 12 she was bled, and at the end of four hours she aroused perfectly collected, and free from head-ache. In the evening I again sent her to sleep for two hours, when she said, "I shall throw water from my stomach on Saturday."

April 22d. Mesmerized, and said, "On

the 1st of May I shall throw off a little blood from my stomach; on the 2d, I shall be very ill, particularly towards evening; on the 3d, I shall throw up something gritty, it will contain part of the coating of the stomach I have before spoken of. Immediately after I have thrown up the gritty substance, I must have a dose of the same sort of medicine I had on the 20th of the month. I shall throw off three pints of water on Saturday next (25th), at five minutes before 6 in the morning. After the 3d of May, I hope I shall be able to recline." She has not been able to lie down night nor day since the 20th of March.

April 23d. Mesmerized two hours and a half; had one bad spasm.

April 24th. Suffering from great nausea, and is very weak. Mesmerized, had a bad spasm, and the nausea produced retching. She said, "The coating is almost all fallen from the stomach, but still it will not be got rid of until the 3d of May. If I am under mesmerism to-morrow between 3 and 4 in the afternoon, I shall be able to give better directions about the 9th of June than at any other time."

April 25th. Water vomited this morning, and she feels very languid. Mesmerized in the morning, and again in the afternoon, when she gave the following directions for the 1st and 9th of June. "On the 1st of June, the spasms will commence at 3 P.M., and be over by 4; mustard should be applied to the extremities for twenty or thirty minutes. To be mesmerized at 2, and aroused at 5 o'clock. On the 9th, at 10 in the morning, I shall be delirious; but there will be no danger of my injuring myself until 10 P.M. No cold water must be applied to the head on account of tic. After 10 at night, violent spasms of the head and heart, which will continue until 12 o'clock. Head and heart to be held by Mr. Luxmoore. From 12 to 2 violent tic; during which let me have hot cloths to my face. From 2 to 4, a fit in great violence; I should be bled as soon after 3 as the struggles will allow. If possible, open both temporal arteries; if not, bleed from both arms. If one temporal artery is opened, and not the other, bleed from the opposite arm. I must be bled until I yawn, and have coffee soon after; then two teaspoonfuls of laudanum to be applied round the temples, face, and chest. From 4 to 6, spasms, and the effects of previous suffering; during which, mustard plasters must be had recourse to, and kept up for twenty-five minutes. I shall then get into a sort of half-stupor until 9 o'clock. After this, mesmerism will be deeper than it ever has been in my case. I shall know Mr. Luxmoore, and shall also be asleep (she does not now consider herself asleep when mesmerized). I must not be al-

lowed to put my foot to the ground this day, nor the next. I may be aroused at 10 o'clock, but should be under mesmerism again in two hours."

April 26th. Has unfortunately given her head a blow, which caused a head-ache. Mesmerized three hours and a quarter.

April 27th. Tolerable in the morning, but during the day circumstances occurred causing a misunderstanding betwixt Mrs. Bird and the person for whom she, in her sleep-waking, mistakes me: this caused her very great distress of mind; and as soon as I mesmerized her into sleep-waking, she became very uncomfortable at having the person she mistook me for with her. I took a great deal of trouble to quiet her, but all to no purpose; so I thought it best to arouse her, and in her waking state assured her that if she thought any one was near, or would approach her, except Mr. Parker and myself, it must be a delusion, and I begged her to keep this idea strongly impressed on her mind while passing into mesmerism. I had, however, to arouse her several times before I could succeed in making her know me in her sleep-waking; when, however, this was accomplished, she became reconciled, and said she must be bled immediately, or she should be insane for life, which would not, in that case, last more than a fortnight. She was bled, and then felt better.

April 28th. Very ill and depressed; but during sleep-waking, she said, "With due care you will yet save me." Mesmerized twice, and knows me in her sleep-waking.

April 29th. Mesmerized in the morning, when she said, "If you wish to save me, you must be with me from half-past 8 to half-past 9 this evening; it will be a struggle between life and death." I sent her to sleep at 7 P.M.; soon after which a spasm came on, and she was very ill. I kept her asleep until 10 o'clock.

April 30th. Mesmerized in the evening, and was very comfortable during the first part of the sitting, but ultimately became faint, owing (as she said) to the contents of the stomach beginning to ferment. She also directed hot jars to be placed at her feet, and sal volatile, two parts water and one part spirit, to be taken at 12 o'clock to-night, 5 to-morrow morning, 12 at noon, and 5 in the afternoon; and a hot jar to be placed at her side.

May 1st. Mesmerized three hours; said, "I shall be ill this evening; keep me asleep as late as you conveniently can to-morrow evening." Mesmerized again in the evening; she was delirious, and remained so for an hour; then became collected, and directed sal volatile, of the same strength as before, between 5 and 6 o'clock to-morrow morning. She now suffered horribly in the calves of her legs and

stomach; the pain could scarcely be endured. She has vomited a little blood. On eating salt or salt meat, she experiences garlic eructations. All this, and the rash she has suffered from, are, I understand, indications of the presence of arsenic.

May 2d. Rather wandering. Mesmerized, soon became collected, and said, "My blood is fermenting, as if I were in a state of salivation. The reason I have been obliged to be so often bled, is owing to the medicine I formerly took." Mesmerized again in the evening, and Mrs. Bird's sufferings in the legs, head, stomach, back, chest, and arms, were perfectly dreadful; three times did she fall into such a paroxysm, as Mr. Parker, who was present, said he never saw a person recover from; her gasping for breath cannot be described. After a time she became easy, and on arousing was unconscious of anything extraordinary having taken place.

May 3d. Mr. Parker and I called on Mrs. Bird between 1 and 2 o'clock, P.M., and found she had thrown from her stomach a quantity of a gritty substance, in a little bloody water, at 5 A.M.; on applying the established tests, the presence of arsenic was indicated. She had taken the aperient medicine as directed. Mesmerized in the evening for two hours, and, with the exception of great weakness, was much more comfortable. She said, "I must not be allowed to fall into what I call sleep, during mesmerism for some time (this is a drowsy stupor, quite distinct from mesmeric sleep; both body and mind are in a state of listless inactivity), or I shall awake an idiot."

May 4th. Much easier; continues to take sal volatile of the same strength; says the system is so paralysed, that if it were weaker it would have no effect. Mesmerized two hours. In the evening I found Mrs. Bird delirious, but soon got her into sane sleep-waking; when she said, "It is lucky you came to-night, or I should have been raving mad by the morning. I did not tell you of it, as I could not endure the notion of encroaching so much on your time; but I see I was wrong, and will never again withhold any directions I consider beneficial. To-morrow you should be with me from 8 to 9 in the evening. I shall have three severe spasms between 12 to 1 o'clock to-morrow; if I were mesmerized, it would be better."

May 5th. Mesmerized two hours; had the three spasms. In the evening found Mrs. Bird delirious; mesmerized from half-past 6 to 10 o'clock, P.M.; soon got her into sleep-waking. She said, "I could not have lived, if Mr. Parker had not bled me so often."

May 6th. Quite collected; mesmerized twice.

May 7th. Great tendency to the stupor:

mesmerized two hours and twenty minutes in the morning, and again in the evening.

May 8th. Very weak. Mesmerized two hours and a quarter, and said, "Very shortly after I am mesmerized this evening, I shall cough, and shall wipe some more of the gritty substance from my mouth. I shall have a spasm between 7 and 8 o'clock, this evening, and should have one ounce of Epsom salts, with a little peppermint between 4 and 5 to-morrow morning. I shall have spasms all Monday." In the evening I again visited Mrs. Bird, and, after having talked to her a little time, sent her into sleep-waking, when she soon coughed, and I wiped from her mouth a gritty substance, precisely similar to that she had vomited on the 3d; this did not go out of my sight until I delivered it to Mr. Parker, who, on testing, found it contained arsenic. Had a very bad spasm between 7 and 8 o'clock.

May 9th. Tolerably comfortable, but weak, and had a little impediment in speaking. Mesmerized twice; said, "I shall be very ill Monday and Tuesday (11th and 12th), and have spasms between 7 and 8 P.M., on the latter day. I shall be very faint."

May 10th. Mesmerized, and said, "I should be mesmerized to-morrow from 10 to 12, 3 to 4, and 7 to 8 o'clock. On Tuesday, from 10 to 12, and 6 to half-past 8. When I faint, rub camphorated spirits into the upper part of each side of my windpipe,—it will recover me sooner than anything else: this will be found beneficial in all cases of fainting. I shall be very ill on the 3d of July, but it will not be a fit. If not mesmerized, I shall not recover."

May 11th. In the morning was tolerable, except the tendency to faint, which, however, was overcome by strictly following her directions. Mesmerized two hours. In the afternoon I found Mrs. Bird much depressed; a distressing message had been delivered to her. Mesmerized, and for a time she was just as she had predicted; but afterwards became raving mad. I sent for Mr. Parker, who applied mustard to the ankles; but with this assistance, and all the mesmeric means I could think of, it took two or three hours to get her tolerably calm; when she exclaimed, "You have overcome me again; if you wish to save my life, bleed me; do not be afraid." This was done, and before 11 o'clock we left her perfectly sane. She also said during sleep-waking, "I may lie down to-night." This she has not been able to do, night nor day, since the 20th of March.

May 12th. Better than could be expected. Mesmerized in the morning three hours and a half; said, "The spasm will, owing to my being bled last evening, come on between 3

and 4, instead of between 7 and 8 o'clock, as I before stated, but it will not be so severe. I shall wander on the 15th, between 3 and 5 o'clock." Mesmerized again in the afternoon for two hours; at a quarter after 3 o'clock the spasm came on; after which she said, "I must be bled again on the 18th. I shall, from 4 to 9 in the evening, be as raving as I was yesterday: I should be bled at a quarter after 8. I shall then be tolerable until the 23d; after which, I shall be able to give no directions about anything until the 9th of June. On the 21st, I will give you all the necessary directions until the 9th. Between the 1st and the 9th of June, my speech will be very bad."

May 13th. Feels better. Mesmerized twice, two hours each time.

May 14th. Tolerably comfortable. Mesmerized two hours in the morning, and the same time in the evening; said, "To-morrow I shall wander slightly, and should be under mesmerism from half-past 11 to half-past 12 o'clock, and again in the evening."

May 15th. Mesmerized, and said, "I threw off two monthfuls of blood from the lungs this morning; the right lung is very bad, not only shrivelled, but in spots much inflamed. I shall have a struggle to-night, soon after I am mesmerized. (This proved correct.) If I were not mesmerized it would take place at 1 in the morning, and then I should be violent. To-morrow I must be mesmerized from 10 to 1, and again in the evening. I shall have a spasm about 7 P.M." Slept three hours in the morning, and two in the evening. Wandered slightly during the day.

May 16th. Has a slight cold. Mesmerized, and said, "I am rather out of order from the cold; my right lung is still inflamed, and will be more so. Mesmerized persons are electrified in a high degree; they should never sleep on iron bedsteads, or spring mattresses." Mesmerized again in the evening, and the spasm was violent about 7 o'clock.

May 18th. Found Mrs. Bird tolerably free from delirium, but was told she had wandered a little before I arrived. Mesmerized two hours and a half. At ten minutes before 4 P.M., Mr. Parker and I found Mrs. Bird delirious. Mesmerized, and retched violently, but soon became collected, and said a mustard emetic would relieve her stomach. It was administered, but a second was resorted to before the desired effect was sufficiently produced. She now discovered that there was a small portion of the gritty substance still remaining in her stomach, which would be thrown off within three days. She, after some time (as she had predicted), became raving mad; screaming, singing, and

laughing most violently. I still had great influence over her, although I cannot say she was asleep. She was bled, as she had directed, and soon after became collected, and remained so on arousing. If during the extreme raving I took off my attention for a single moment, she was sure to commit some act of violence, either towards me or herself; but while I kept my will strongly upon her, she was quite tractable, that is, I could prevent violence.

May 19th. Has enjoyed some natural sleep during the night, and is quite free from delirium. Mesmerized twice, and said, "I have a great deal of water in the chest; I shall throw it off before the 25th, but to-morrow I will tell you the exact day. I shall be better to-morrow than on any day until after the 9th of June, but my intellect will be clearest on the 21st."

May 20th. Mesmerized twice, and after she had been asleep some little time, she coughed, and threw from her stomach a small quantity of the gritty substance, similar to what had been before ejected; this also contained arsenic. During sleep she said, "The sal volatile must not be, for a few hours, more than half as strong as I have been taking it (up to this time it has been two parts water and one part spirit), as the stomach is lacerated at the parts from which the gritty substance has last been removed. I shall have rather a severe spasm about noon to-morrow; when it is over, give me a cup of coffee. I shall throw about three pints of water from my stomach between 2 and 3 o'clock to-morrow morning; after which I may lie down, but before that I must keep my head and chest up."

May 21st. Water has been vomited. Spirits not so good. Mesmerized, and repeated her directions for the 9th of June, in no particular varying from what she had before said. She now desired that a poultice (made according to a prescription she gave) should be applied to the side to-night and to-morrow night, and the tumor would then discharge at 1 o'clock on the morning of the 23d. "I shall (she said) feel ill to-morrow, and have a spasm at 7 o'clock, P.M.; it will be over by 8. I should be mesmerized twice. On the 23d, I should have a dose of salts; on the 24th, I should be mesmerized in the evening, and not awake until 10 o'clock, P.M. On the 25th, I shall have spasms and cramp through the limbs and whole system, both in and out of mesmerism: 26th and 27th, ditto: 28th, severe spasms; between 11 and 12 o'clock in the day I shall be delirious, but if it comes to madness, bleed me sparingly. I should be mesmerized at 10 A.M. 29th, 30th and 31st, spasms, but not very severe; times of mesmerism immaterial. To

this date let me go out as often as the weather will permit, except on the 28th; but after the 31st, I should not go out until after the 9th of June. For directions for the 1st of June, see April 25th; 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th, spasms; 6th, 7th, 8th, very ill."

May 22d. Last night the poultice was applied to the side, which caused great pain. Mesmerized twice. Spasm as predicted.

May 23d. Application to side repeated last night, and tumor has discharged. Mesmerized two hours in the morning, after which she was taken into the open air. When I visited Mrs. Bird in the afternoon, she was much fatigued; this caused delirium, which it took some time to overcome, but after arousing she was perfectly collected.

May 24th. Took the salts yesterday, as directed. Mesmerized twice. I aroused her at a quarter after 10, tolerably comfortable.

May 25th. Suffering from cramp and spasms. Mesmerized four hours and a half in the morning, and had a long sleep in the evening.

May 26th and 27th. Just as yesterday. Mesmerized twice on each of these days. Internal vision, prevision, and clairvoyance have all left her; she does not now during mesmerism recollect a word she has said during lucid sleep-waking, nor has she since the 21st instant.

May 28th. Found Mrs. Bird in her garden, quite delirious. I induced her to go into the house, and soon mesmerized her into sleep-waking, in which for a time she was collected; but from half-past 10 to 11 o'clock she gradually got worse, spasms began, and then she became perfectly mad. Mr. Parker bled her, I having placed her as erect as possible in order that faintness might be felt with the loss of little blood, and consequently half a pint was sufficient to produce the effect. On recovering she was quite collected. I kept her asleep nearly six hours at the first sitting, and two hours more in the evening.

May 29th, 30th and 31st. Weak, but quite collected. Mesmerized twice each day, and I had great difficulty in preventing the stupor: slight spasms.

June 1st. Mesmerized a little before 2 o'clock; at a quarter before 3 she became restless; this feeling increased to 3 o'clock, when the spasm commenced with great violence; nothing but her prevision, and what we had before witnessed in her case, gave Mr. Parker or myself any hope of her recovery. At a quarter after 3 o'clock the mustard was applied, and before 4 she was quite tranquil. At 5 I aroused her, and again mesmerized her for two hours in the evening.

June 2d. Very languid. Mesmerized, and soon after became delirious for three

quarters of an hour, but it appeared to proceed more from weakness than anything else, and might have been increased by the excessive heat of the weather; kept her asleep four hours, and mesmerized her again for two hours in the evening; suffered slightly from tic and spasms.

June 3d and 4th. Slight spasms and a very little tic. Mesmerized twice each day.

June 5th. Spasms rather more severe. Mesmerized twice; great tendency to stupor.

June 6th. Feels ill. Mesmerized at a quarter before 10 o'clock, when a severe spasm came on, causing delirium, rigidity, and an involuntary action of the muscles. Slept three hours and a half; was again mesmerized two hours in the evening, and said, "I think a dose of salts would do me good, but I do not know."

June 7th. Took the salts, and feels they have been beneficial. Mesmerized five hours, before and during which she had several spasms, producing rigidity and violent involuntary action of the muscles. Was much refreshed on awaking.

June 8th. Very ill, and slightly delirious. Soon after I had mesmerized her into sleep-waking, a spasm came on; she was quite insensible and unmanageable. Having read Dr. Gregory's translation of Reichenbach's *Researches on Magnetism*, it occurred to me that placing Mrs. Bird's head to the north could do her no harm, and might be of benefit. I therefore, without assigning any reason, requested the sofa might be so turned as to bring her, as near as I could judge, into the desired position; and in less than two minutes a surprising change took place. She exclaimed, "My head is towards the north. I feel much more comfortable. I am suffering great pain, but my spirits are better. How bright things appear to me! How dull I have been! but now I see clearly. How stupid not to know that I was to be so very ill to-day, and have so much to go through to-morrow. You have done very well for me. I shall remain lucid until after a spasm, which will take place about 7 this evening, when all will again be dark until the 10th." She also said, "If you were now to turn my head to the west, I should be mad. I think (she added) if all persons subject to insanity were (provided they do not lie on iron) to sleep with their heads to the north, it would be better. East to west, or south to north, is not so bad as west to east." I am convinced Mrs. Bird had never seen Reichenbach's book, but these assertions are, I consider, borne out by experiments. "I am (she also said) influenced as the compass, being full of a mesmeric electricity; it is similar to electricity and magnetism, but not identical with them. Some persons under mesmerism are

not so much influenced by this electricity as others."

June 9th. Although Mrs. Bird was not to be mesmerized until 10 o'clock, P.M., Mr. Parker and I visited her in the morning; she was delirious, and continued so through the day. At about half-past 9, P.M., we again saw Mrs. Bird, and at a little before 10 I commenced mesmerizing her: a very bad spasm came on, acting on her head and heart; then violent delirium with continual spasms, lasting until 12 o'clock.

June 10th. At 12 o'clock the tic commenced; her agonies were most distressing to witness; she threw herself about, sometimes on the floor, and was quite insane; singing, laughing, screaming, and groaning alternately. At 2 o'clock, the tic had passed off, and the fit commenced with great violence: her spine was arched forwards, and she injured it, as she had some time previously predicted. At 3 o'clock, A.M., on Mr. Parker's attempting to open her temporal arteries, she became very violent, and for twenty minutes resisted all our efforts. We at last succeeded in opening the right artery, but it caused for an instant great agony, as it implicated the nerves, which were suffering from the effects of tic. After a very little blood had flowed, she became sane, and requested to be bled in the opposite arm, instead of the other artery, as the nerves were in such an irritable condition; this was done: the artery and vein were kept open until yawning was produced. At 4, A.M., the laudanum was applied, slight spasms came on at intervals, and she suffered much from the effects of what she had gone through. At half-past 5, mustard cataplasms were applied, and as soon as they were taken off, she fell into a sort of half stupor; this continued until 9 o'clock, when she got into a high state of mesmerism, knowing she was asleep, &c.; and said, "I have injured the spine in two places: my side will never gather again, unless there is some active cause; but this would not have been the case, if leeches had been applied, instead of the poultice." Mrs. Bird's predictions in all cases have been fully verified, and we considered ourselves called upon to carry out all her directions. At a little after 10 I aroused her. Mesmerized again at noon, and slept three hours. Internal vision and prevision have returned in full splendor (see April 25, and June 10). At half past 7, P.M., I again sent her to sleep for two hours and a half, when she said, "I must be bled every Wednesday for six weeks; the first five times in the arm, and the last in the left temporal artery. To-morrow I should be mesmerized from 11 to 2, and 7 to 9 o'clock." The cough has come on, and will, she says, last six weeks. [Mrs. Bird, between the 14th

of February and 9th of June, had two fits; but it must be recollected, she was twice frightened, and often much excited. I have neglected to note the dates.

June 11th. Better. Mesmerized three hours and a half in the morning, and two hours and a half in the evening, during which she said, "I shall be very unwell on the 3d of July; I should to-morrow be mesmerized twice, but the time is not important."

June 12th. Mesmerized three hours, and prescribed medicine for Saturday.

June 13th. Very tolerable. Mesmerized twice. In the afternoon, and after she had got into sleep-waking, a gentleman of Exeter came to see Mrs. Bird. I then called her attention to his knee, which had been seriously injured some months before from the kick of a horse. After a time, she said, "Your knee is bandaged too tight (this no one in the room knew but the gentleman himself, who instantly admitted the truth of what she stated. He was sitting from three to six feet from Mrs. Bird, and wore loose trousers). She was now silent for a little time, appeared puzzled, and requested me to take the gentleman's hand; on my doing which, she started, exclaiming, "He has steel about him." She for a few moments felt uncomfortable. When Mrs. Bird recovered, she said, "Steel is not good for the knee, whalebone or ivory should be used instead, and no metal except silver or gold be introduced." She recommended bathing, local mesmerism, and a liniment, adding, "If the gentleman follows my advice, he will be much better than he is at present."

June 14th. Feels sick from the medicine. Mesmerized water settled her stomach, and threw her into a very deep sleep, in which she did not hear even my voice, nor could I get her to pay the least attention to me in any way. On again arousing (if I may use such a term) into sleep-waking, she was much refreshed, and directed that she should be mesmerized on the 16th before 12 o'clock in the day, and between 7 and 9 in the evening. Slept three hours and a half.

June 15th. Better. Mesmerized and slept comfortably.

June 16th. Still improving in general health, but the cough, which exactly resembles whooping-cough, is very troublesome. Mesmerized water again produced what she calls the double sleep. In the afternoon she had a slight attack of diarrhoea, for which she gave a prescription in case it continued. Mesmerized twice.

June 17th. Head and face swollen; mesmerized twice. In the evening all the symptoms had increased. Bled as she had directed. She also said, "My face should be bathed with an infusion of parsley, marsh mallow, and feverfew."

June 18th. Diarrhoea rather violent. Mesmerized twice, and said, "It will be necessary to use the prescription I gave the other day, and to have my face bathed." All this was attended to.

June 19th. Mesmerized at Mr. Parker's, when a few gentlemen and ladies were admitted to see Mrs. Bird; she aroused at the end of five hours. Mesmerized for two hours in the afternoon, and aroused, feeling better. Face to be again bathed.

June 20th. Mesmerized twice; cough very bad, producing a tendency to lock-jaw, which she said would be avoided either in or out of mesmerism by pressure of the fingers just at the hinge of the jaw. Passes down the spine relieve the cough.

June 21st. Health improving. Mesmerized from a quarter before 3 to 6 o'clock. For twenty minutes she was in the deep sleep, and, on again getting into sleep-waking, she said, "I have been examining my brain to see in what state it will be after the last bleeding, on the 22d of July (Wednesday). I shall be very ill on the Monday and Tuesday, from cramp and violent cough. Before 8 o'clock on Wednesday evening I shall be quite mad; then bleed me in the temporal artery; this will get rid of the madness, and I shall get into mesmeric sleep: I shall be partially under its influence before, but not asleep. From this time I shall get better, but should not exert myself too much, nor get overheated."

June 22d. Somewhat depressed, particularly after 12 o'clock (there was much thunder in the air). Mesmerized twice, and says her liver is out of order, and she should eat water-cress, and very young onions. Cough still bad.

June 23d. A severe thunder took place last evening, during which Mrs. Bird felt a very curious sensation in the head, spine, and limbs, such as she had never before experienced; there seemed to be slight electric shocks passing through the system. Mesmerized twice, and slept five hours.

June 24th. Mesmerized morning and evening; during the latter sitting, Mr. Parker attempted to bleed; the first trial was unsuccessful. There is now some difficulty in getting at the vein, as she has been bled more than four hundred times in the arm that was now tried. On the second attempt, Mr. Parker's finger unfortunately touched her arm, which immediately became rigid, and although the vein was opened, scarcely any blood would flow.\* I soon relaxed the arm, and placed her hand in hot water, but all to no effect. She then said it would be safer after a short time to arouse her and open a

\* When Mr. Parker has bled Mrs. Bird in the mesmeric state, he has always avoided touching her, having used my hand as a rest.

vein in the waking state, as, if a similar accident occurred to the other arm, we should not be able to bleed her for the night. This was done, and sixteen ounces of blood taken; after which she was again mesmerized for two hours.

June 25th and 26th. Mesmerized twice each day, and is better.

June 27th. The thunder weather still causes uneasiness. Mesmerized twice, and said, "On Monday, the 29th instant, I will give directions for the following day, and decide whether it will be better to postpone the bleeding from Wednesday, the 1st of July, to Friday, the 3d, as it would be of great benefit to me on that day, when I shall be so ill."

June 28th. Felt better for a drive she took last evening. Mesmerized three hours and fifty minutes; said, "I have not quite got over the effects of the stagnation of the blood on Wednesday. There is great inflammation all up the spine, but particularly at the lower bone."

June 29th. Feels as yesterday. Mesmerized two hours and three quarters in the morning, and said, "The bleeding can be put off until Friday (July 3), if you will mesmerize me every evening after to-morrow from 7 to a quarter before 10 o'clock. On Friday I shall have spasms through the day; indeed they will commence the night before, but the worst will be between 7 and 8 P.M.; after 8, bleed. In the forepart of the day let me have as much mesmerism as you can. I shall be rather delirious. During the following week I shall be weak and poorly until the last bleeding; a few days after which, I shall be able to do without mesmerism for a short time."

June 30th. Had enjoyed many hours natural sleep during the night and feels better. Mesmerized twice.

July 1st. Slight spasms. Mesmerized as yesterday.

July 2d. Spasms increased, but it must be remembered she was to have been bled last night: the operation by her directions was postponed to to-morrow. Mesmerized twice.

July 3d. Spasms rather worse. Mesmerized 3 hours in the morning. At 5 o'clock in the evening I again mesmerized Mrs. Bird, spasms still continued, and between 7 and 8 three very severe ones came on. As soon as she became collected after the third spasm I aroused her, and Mr. Parker opened a vein in her arm: it was not done during sleep for fear of a repetition of what took place when she was last bled. When the arm was secured I again sent her to sleep until 10 o'clock, when she was aroused free from delirium.

July 4th. Suffering from reaction after the blood letting. Mesmerized 3 hours both morning and evening. Spine also locally mesmerized with the flat hand during both sittings; this has been done daily for some

time, and it generally throws her into deep sleep.

July 5th. Mesmerized more than three hours. To-day she could bear the spine and chest to be mesmerically electrified by the tips of my fingers and then soothed down with the flat hand.

July 6th. Mesmerized three hours and three quarters.

July 7th. Spine and cough better. Mesmerized twice; back and chest electrified.

July 8th. Suffering from head-ache. Mesmerized 3 hours in the forenoon. In the evening Mr. Parker and I visited Mrs. Bird, and found her much excited, a report having reached her (promulgated of course by an opposer of mesmerism), reflecting on her character, insinuating that Mr. Parker and I visited her for immoral purposes: a more wicked or false report could not have been invented. But what will not our opponents do! They must be beaten and they begin to know it, though still trying to ward off the blow for a time. They scruple not to have recourse to the most base expedients, setting truth utterly at defiance. While they only rant about satanic influence, witchcraft, humbug, &c., &c., their conduct produces some amusement: but when they are base enough to attack the character of a female, on whom a word of reproach on that point has never before been breathed, it must, I think, be reprobated by all respectable persons, be their opinion of mesmerism what it may. But to return to our patient, who was bled and sent to sleep for three hours.

July 9th. Head much relieved, although she frets and vexes herself much, owing to the report alluded to yesterday. Mesmerized three hours in the morning and not again for the day, owing to my being suddenly called to see a sick relation some miles from Exeter.

July 10th. At half past 3 P.M. I found Mrs. Bird suffering from head-ache. Mesmerized her, when she said, "If mesmerized gold were placed on my forehead where the pain is, I think it would produce a soothing effect. It may throw me into a deep sleep; if it does, you had better remove it soon after that takes place." I tried the experiment, which succeeded admirably. After two hours and a half, it was convenient that she should be aroused; I therefore awoke her, and she took tea; after which I again put her into sleep-waking and repeated the experiment with the mesmerized gold, with a precisely similar result. Slept three hours.

July 11th. The excitement respecting the report is much increased. Mesmerized three hours, during which she was tolerably composed. In the evening, when Mr. Parker and I arrived, we found Mrs. Bird suffering much in her head, and very soon after I got her asleep a convulsive motion of the eyes com-



menaced. Then came several violent spasms, flying from the head to the heart, accompanied with great rigidity of the whole body, and excessive difficulty of breathing, indeed such were the symptoms, that had I not known the power mesmerism had over her, I should have despaired of her life. She was very delirious, but after a time became more calm, although the breathing continued painfully difficult. I now placed a highly mesmerized sovereign in her hand; she grasped it tightly, and then placed it on the pit of her stomach, and fell into a deep sleep. In five minutes the breathing and whole frame became as tranquil as can well be imagined. On arousing she felt exhausted, but was quite collected.

July 12th. Spirits still much depressed. Mesmerized twice, and said, she had irritated the spine during last evening, which made the cough worse.

July 13th. Spirits low and feels pressure on the brain, particularly on the centre of the forehead. Mesmerized three hours in the morning, during part of which time she was in the deep sleep; on coming out of which she said, "After the bleeding on the 22d of this month, I shall feel weak and ill for a few days, then, if nothing unexpected occurs, I shall gradually get better until the 16th of August, on which day I shall have very severe spasmodic affections: both hands will be contracted, particularly the left. You must relieve this by burning moxa on the nape of the neck; let the arms be rubbed with camphorated spirits and oil, twice a day, until they gain strength." Mesmerized again in the evening for three hours, when she directed that she should inhale from an infusion of certain herbs twice a day.

July 14th. Headache rather worse. Mesmerized twice; says, "The spasms which will take place on the 16th of next month, are entirely caused by her fretting about the report affecting her character."

July 15th. Head still bad. Mesmerized three hours in the morning, when she said, "The lungs are already benefited by the inhaling." They are mesmerically electrified daily. In the evening she was bled, then mesmerized, and when the first feeling of faintness had passed off, she desired me to throw her into the deep sleep, with mesmerized gold on her forehead. This was done, and, on again getting into sleep-waking, she alluded to the 16th of August, saying, "I cannot see [my way clear; that day looks very dark to me." Slept four hours.

July 16th. Very weak, but head better. Mesmerized twice, and said, "The temporal artery must not be opened on Wednesday until about 8 o'clock P.M. I shall begin to be very delirious between 5 and 6 P.M."

July 17th. Much mental suffering conti-

nues. Mesmerized three hours in the morning. In the evening I found Mrs. Bird considerably excited, having heard more of the slanders that have been so falsely reported respecting her. Mesmerized; soon after which a severe spasm came on, was followed by others, and she became insane. I now succeeded in getting her into the very deep state. Slept three hours and twenty minutes. On arousing she was calm.

July 18th. Spirits a little better, but the spasms continue. Mesmerized twice.

July 19th. Still poorly; spasms continue, and she has a slight attack of St. Vitus's dance. Mesmerized twice; says the action of the limbs will only last for a day or two.

July 20th. Less spasms, but great debility. Mesmerized 3 hours in the morning, and 2½ hours in the afternoon. Cramp and cough.

July 21st. Better, with the exception of a pain in her head, which cannot be expected to be removed until blood has been taken from the temporal artery to-morrow evening. Mesmerized twice. Still unable to say how the 16th will terminate. Cramp and cough as yesterday.

July 22d. Head very bad. Mesmerized three hours in the forenoon, and at times was slightly delirious. A little before 6 P.M., Mr. Parker and I found Mrs. Bird delirious, and she soon became quite mad, attempting to strike me and do all sorts of mischief. I could not get her to sleep, but still by determination and a strong exercise of the will, I kept her tolerably quiet, provided I did not take my eye off her. At 8 o'clock the temporal artery was opened, and before much more than a table-spoonful of blood had flowed, she was quite collected and asked what we had done. As soon as the bandage was adjusted, I mesmerized her into sleep-waking and then into the deep sleep: on recovering from the latter she said, "I shall only have one more fit of coughing, which will be on Saturday evening. On Friday week the 31st I must take an ounce of tincture of rhubarb, and on Tuesday week I should be bled. I shall be cheerful while away" (Mrs. Bird is going to the sea side for a fortnight), "but my spirits will flag on my return." She again, after speaking of the spasm which will take place on the 16th of August, said, "After the application of moxa a stupor will come on, during which, bleed until I show some signs of faintness; then put my feet into warm water with a little mustard in it for ten minutes, wipe them dry and put them on the sofa. If I rally from the stupor I shall do well; if not, one hour will only be left for me. The sufferings of that day are entirely produced by the unkind reports."

July 23d. Better, in every respect, but

weak from the bleeding. Mesmerized. St. Vitus's dance has quite left her.

July 24th. Appetite improved, and is altogether better. Mesmerized three hours and a half in the morning and two hours in the evening.

July 25th. Still better. Mesmerized twice. During the morning sitting a thunder storm came on and she felt slight shocks through her system. She heard the thunder, although no mechanical noise nor the voice of any one but that of her mesmerizer is audible to her. May not this be owing to electricity? She again assured me, that being without mesmerism until the 15th of August would not, in any way, affect the crisis on the 16th. Cough as predicted.

July 26th. Still better. Mesmerized two hours and a half.

Aug. 4th. Bled to sixteen ounces while at the sea-side.

Aug. 14th. Has not been mesmerized since the 26th ultimo. Mrs. Bird took the tincture of rhubarb on the 31st ultimo. The changeable weather has given her very slight tic. Mesmerized three hours and a half, and said, "My chest is nearly full of water" (her breathing is very difficult), "I have a slight cold, which has produced a little inflammation through the system, and the stomach is disordered by it. I can give you no further directions as to the 16th. The spasms will commence at 5 o'clock."

Aug. 15th. Still feeling ill. Mesmerized three hours in the morning, and said, "I shall throw the water from my stomach before tomorrow morning; that is something in favor of my recovery. Your taking *sal volatile* or wine after I am bled, on the 16th, will be beneficial." On visiting Mrs. Bird in the evening, I found she had ejected three pints of water, and consequently the chest was much relieved. Mesmerized again for three hours.

Aug. 16th. Found Mrs. Bird at 10 A.M. very ill. Mesmerized her for two hours and a half, but she could not even now see her way through the afternoon attack; indeed there appeared to be in sleep-waking a very strong impression that she should not recover; not that she saw that would be the case, but all after the stupor appeared as a blank. At twenty minutes after 3 P.M., Mr. Parker and I found Mrs. Bird looking and feeling as ill as it is possible to imagine; Mr. Parker's impression was that she would not recover. I mesmerized her into sleep-waking, and it was very beautiful to observe her perfect resignation, and touching to a degree to hear her express her entire forgiveness of all who had injured her. The gratitude she expressed towards Mr. Parker and myself for the attention we had paid her, was unbounded. At 5 o'clock the spasms came on, her screams were

dreadful; before 6, both hands contracted, and Mr. Parker gave me a moxa to burn on her neck, as she had directed. Soon after it began to affect the skin, the hands flew open and were relaxed. Her other directions as to hot water, bleeding, &c., were attended to. She fell into the stupor, and was to all appearance dying. I persevered in keeping her as much under the influence of mesmerism as possible, wetting her lips with wine, and taking some myself, as well as several doses of *sal volatile*; this recovered her for a moment, but her tongue was convulsively drawn to the roof of her mouth; lower jaw dropping, limbs extended, and she was to all appearance sinking. This continued for nearly an hour, when her breathing became more easy; and she told me, in an almost inaudible voice, that she was better, but that as the reaction of blood-letting took place, she should suffer greatly. I proposed keeping her under mesmerism the whole night. This at first she was unwilling we should do, as it would fatigue us. However, Mr. Parker and I remained with her until 7 o'clock the next morning. She awoke spontaneously twice during the time, but I soon mesmerized her into sleep-waking. At 7 A.M. I aroused her. At 1 P.M. I again gave her three hours mesmerism, and kept her asleep the same time in the evening.

Aug. 18th. Thunder in the air, which causes a little oppression about the brain. Mrs. Bird last night ejected her supper; with one exception, this is the only time she has vomited any food since the early part of July, and on each occasion she had exerted herself sooner after a meal than is desirable. Before being mesmerized, she ejected her food daily for nearly thirteen years. Mesmerized twice.

Aug. 19th. Notwithstanding the weather, which is very damp, Mrs. Bird gains strength, and her general health improves. Mesmerized twice, and said, "My stomach is a little out of order; liver is inflamed; right lung dormant, but not much inflamed; nerves of the brain rather excited, but that will subside. The time of the day at which you mesmerize me is of no importance, until Tuesday, the 25th. At 4 P.M. on that day I shall suffer from cramp in the bowels. Soothing passes would be of benefit. If you were not with me there would be no danger, only I should suffer more. I must have one ounce of tincture of rhubarb that night."

Aug. 20th. Mrs. Bird's cold has occasioned slight tooth-ache, but nothing worth the name of tic. Mesmerized twice. During the second sitting she said, "Wild sage tea would do me good, and a poultice of toast and yeast, such as I have before used. The general inflammation through the system is much less." ogle

Aug. 21st. Mesmerized twice, together six hours.

Aug. 22d. Face much better. Mesmerized three hours.

Aug. 23d. Still better; appetite good, does not eject her food. Mesmerized each day for some hours.

Aug. 25th. Mesmerized in the morning, and a little before 4 in the afternoon, with the cramp present.

Aug. 26th and 27th. Took rhubarb on the night of the 25th. Rather weak; mesmerized both days for some hours.

Aug. 29th, 30th, and 31st. Mesmerized each day twice. Health improving.

Sept. 1st, 2d, and 3d. Mesmerized each day. On the last, she said, "I shall, soon after I am mesmerized to-morrow, have a sharp spasm, which will leave a head-ache; with this exception I shall get on tolerably until Tuesday, which day I do not see clearly."

Sept. 4th. Mesmerized six hours. Spasm came on as predicted, and left a head-ache.

Sept. 5th. Head-ache continues. Mesmerized twice, two hours each time; says Tuesday will be an uncomfortable day.

Sept. 6th. Head worse (there is thunder in the air, and this always affects her). Mesmerized once four hours; says she should be bled on Tuesday the 8th, or a severe spasm and delirium will be the consequence.

Sept. 7th. Mesmerized: head bad.

Sept. 8th. Bled, and then mesmerized three hours in the afternoon.

Sept. 9th. Head-ache gone; feels better, but weak. Mesmerized some hours.

Sept. 10th. Still better: sleeps at night. Mesmerized twice, together five hours; says the heart is now worse than any other part.

Sept. 11th. Mesmerized twice, together five hours.

Sept. 12th. Mrs. Bird has a little tendency to faint; the heat of the weather is intense. Mesmerized twice, two hours each time.

Sept. 13th. Just as yesterday. Mesmerized three hours.

Sept. 14th. Stronger, and able to sit up a longer time; but exertion causes palpitation. Mesmerized four hours, and said, "To-morrow, Wednesday and Thursday, will be very fair days; Friday and Saturday oppression about the head; Sunday I shall be very ill, but better on Monday."

Sept. 15th. Mesmerized five hours; says, "There is pain at the bottom of the right lung: I must rub into the side, just over that part, one-third of a grain of opium in an ointment, twice a day; and the inhalation must be altered" (for this she gave a prescription); in other respects comfortable.

Sept. 16th. Not mesmerized.

Sept. 17th. Comfortable. Mesmerized twice, together five hours.

Sept. 18th. Severe head-ache, and feels ill. Mesmerized twice; spasm in the head; says she shall require bleeding on Sunday afternoon.

Sept. 19th. As yesterday. Mesmerized twice.

Sept. 20th. Mesmerized two hours and a quarter in the morning, and appeared as usual. At six o'clock in the evening, Mr. Parker and I found Mrs. Bird very ill, eyes sunk, and appears in a most deplorable state; she was bled, and then put to sleep. She first got into sleep-waking, and then into the deep sleep; remained in the latter one hour and a half, and, on again coming into sleep-waking, said, "The disease that is prevalent is not diarrhoea, but Asiatic cholera; it is in a milder form than it was some years since. I shall have an attack of it this day fortnight; but if you attend to my directions, I shall recover. It will come on in the night. I should drink as much water as possible, have some of the medicine which I have told you is good for that complaint, and bled at 12 o'clock at noon." I kept her asleep upwards of three hours, when she awoke much more comfortable.

Sept. 21st and 22d. Better. Mesmerized twice each day.

Sept. 23d. Has had a slight fall in rising from the sofa, and sprained her arm and ankle, both of which were eased by local passes after she was put into sleep-waking. The spine is also a little injured, and causes a slight impediment in her speech; local mesmerism soon relieved it.

Sept. 24th. Feels the shake, but is otherwise improving. Mesmerized twice.

Sept. 25th. Mesmerized three hours. Feels tightness on the chest; said during sleeping-waking, "I shall on Sunday and Monday be tolerable; Tuesday and Wednesday, a sick head-ache; Thursday and Friday, better; Saturday not so well."

Sept. 26th and 27th. Mesmerized some hours each day, and during sleep-waking coughed up a considerable portion of phlegm, which relieved her chest.

Sept. 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th. Mesmerized twice on each day. Sick head-ache on the two latter.

Oct. 2d. Rather uncomfortable. Mesmerized twice, together five hours, and said, "On Sunday (4th), as I have told you, I shall be very ill: I must be bled at 12 o'clock, but not mesmerized until 5 p.m., as the bowels will not cease to act until that time; I must take a dose of the medicine I have prescribed every two hours until the action on the bowels begins to subside. I may have a little wine Monday and Tuesday. I shall be some days better and some worse until the following Sunday, when I must be again bled. I shall then get on as usual until the 21st; bleed me

in the evening of that day. On the 28th, I shall be very ill from spasms, faintness, and delirium; bleed me in the evening. On the 29th and 30th I shall feel ill. On the 31st, a change will take place, and I shall improve daily to the end of the year, that is, if no external circumstance occurs to throw me back. Let me take every third day, commencing from the last day of October to the 31st of December, half a teacup-full of infusion of furze-blossom and sting-nettles, with a quarter of a glass of sherry, and ten drops of essence of coriander or caraway seeds; it must be taken warm on going to bed. After the last day of November I shall not require so much of your attention."

Oct. 3d. Feels poorly. Mesmerized twice, together four hours and three quarters.

Oct. 4th. Mr. Parker bled Mrs. Bird at 12 o'clock; she was suffering from Asiatic cholera; her nails were blue round the quick, and blood glutinous. The attack commenced at 4 in the morning (the medicine had been left the evening before, with directions to be taken if the bowels were acted on; Mrs. Bird was of course not told what would take place), with vomiting; soon after a violent action of the bowels came on, accompanied with severe cramp. Evacuations like rice water. At 5 o'clock p.m., I mesmerized her, and kept her asleep five hours. It will be recollected she had predicted this attack fourteen days before it came on.

Oct. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Mesmerized twice each day, and is better, but weak.

Oct. 8th and 9th. Better. Mesmerized several hours each day.

Oct. 10. Not so well. Mesmerized some hours.

Oct. 11. Poorly. Mesmerized twice, and bled.

Oct. 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th. Some days a little better than others. Mesmerized twice each day, except the 15th.

Oct. 17th. Took an aperient draught, as she had directed on the 14th.

Oct. 18th and 19th. Mesmerized some hours each day, and on the latter said, "I should not eat much animal food for the present. Rice and tapioca are good for me."

Oct. 20th. Suffering from an attack on the bowels, produced by a slight cold. Mesmerized twice.

Oct. 21st. Bowels still out of order. Mesmerized twice, prescribed for myself, and took the medicine; bled in the evening.

Oct. 22d. Bowels much quieter. Mesmerized twice.

Oct. 23d and 24th. Mesmerized twice each day, and feels better.

Oct. 25th. Just as yesterday. Mesmerized once.

Oct. 26th. Mesmerized twice, together four hours and a half: said, "My spirits

will be bad up to Wednesday night. Bleed me as soon as convenient after 6 o'clock on that evening." Has a little head-ache.

Oct. 27th. Head-ache increased. Mesmerized twice.

Oct. 28th. Found Mrs. B. in the evening suffering much from head-ache and depression. Mesmerized two hours and a half. In the afternoon, about half-past 4, Mr. Parker and I visited Mrs. B.; she was looking very ill, eyes particularly dull, and she was a little incoherent in her conversation; this increased until she became quite delirious. Spasm as predicted. At 6 o'clock she was bled, but faintness was not produced until twenty ounces of blood had been taken. Up to this time mesmerism had not been attempted, Mrs. Bird having told me it would not produce sleep. As soon as the arm was secured I sent her into sleep-waking, and she said, "I am very weak, but my complaints are cured: I shall after a day or two gain fast. The mechanical injury I received on the top of my head, when young, may produce occasional delirium."

Oct. 29th. Mesmerized twice, and is suffering from reaction after blood-letting.

Oct. 30th, 31st, and Nov. 1st. Mesmerized each day, and is better: but her spirits are depressed, owing to the base attacks on her published in the Exeter papers, where she is week after week branded as an impostor, because some of the opposers of mesmerism cannot understand the arsenic affair; and they have not the fairness to wait until the case is published, but take hold of all the scraps of conversation, whether true or false, that are reported to have fallen from any one connected with the case. They harp a great deal about arsenic, enough to kill twenty men, and say there is a written statement that I have asserted this to be the case. I can only say, whoever has written a statement to this effect, must have mistaken what I said, as I never even thought that such a quantity of poison had been vomited: indeed, how much arsenic the gritty substance contained I could form no judgment of, until I received Dr. W. Gregory's analysis in the middle of November. It may seem strange for me to speak of November here, but this part of the case had not been transcribed from my notes when Dr. Gregory's letter arrived.

Nov. 2d, 3d, and 4th. Spirits very low. Mesmerized many hours each day.

Nov. 5th. Mesmerized twice, and had a dreadfully severe spasm through the head through fretting.

Nov. 6th. Frightfully ill, owing to the effects produced by the continued published attacks on her character. Mesmerized three times, two hours each; says there will be a change one way or another before half-past 5 o'clock to-morrow evening.

Nov. 7th. Ill all day. Mesmerized twice. At a little after 5 p.m., a most severe spasm came on; her convulsions were dreadful to witness.

Nov. 8th, 9th, and 10th. Rather better, but the spasm of the 7th has greatly reduced her strength.

Nov. 11th. Vomited her breakfast this morning, owing to again exerting herself too soon after eating. Mesmerized twice.

Nov. 12th, 13th, and 14th. Mesmerized some hours each day, and is gaining strength, although slowly.

Nov. 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th. Mesmerized twice each day. Not much change.

Nov. 19th. Mesmerized twice, and said, "The circulation of blood is more free; I should take warm liquids, but no wine. The tea must be omitted for the present. I should have three frankincense pills for three nights, a moderate dose of squills the following mornings, and some magnesia the fourth night." Her directions were followed, as on every other occasion.

Nov. 20th. Mesmerized twice, gains strength slowly.

Nov. 21st. Still better in the morning; but, after seeing a letter in the Western Times, declaring her to be an impostor, and stating some direct falsehoods respecting her, the brain became irritated. In the afternoon she was delirious, and very ill. I mesmerized her three times to-day, and on the last occasion, after having been some time in the deep sleep, she, on again getting into sleep-waking, said, "You must soon decide. I have been looking at myself; if you do not bleed, I shall be insane for life; and if you bleed, I do not know that you will be able to recover me from the faintness." Mr. Parker, who was present, immediately opened a vein in Mrs. Bird's arm (I having first aroused her), and bled to indications of faintness. I then again commenced mesmerizing her, but had very great difficulty in recovering Mrs. Bird from the faintness; indeed she appeared, both to Mr. Parker and myself, to be dying; her tongue was convulsed, breathing scarcely discernible, and in the midst of all this her jaw became locked; but I soon relieved it by the means I had before used. After about half an hour she recovered a little, and was able to swallow small quantities of wine. My taking strong doses of dilute sal volatile, seemed to have a beneficial effect on Mrs. Bird.

Nov. 22d, 23d, 24th, 25th, and 26th. Mesmerized twice each day, except the 25th. Very ill on the first three days, but has gained strength since, and her spirits are improving.

Nov. 27th and 28th. Mesmerized twice each day; is suffering from tic, but not nearly to the extent she did before mesmerized. Mrs. Bird has a severe attack of influenza.

On the latter day she said, "I shall suffer from tic during the night, but it will be better by the morning. I shall have a spasm in the kidneys on Tuesday between 7 and 8 P.M."

Nov. 29th, 30th, and Dec. 1st. Has suffered from tic. The spasm took place as she predicted. The influenza has caused great weakness. Spirits better.

Mrs. Bird has, during sleep-waking, the power not only of looking through her own system, but also that of any persons who may be brought before her, and can give directions for the treatment of their diseases. In no one instance in which her recommendations have been fully carried out, have they, as far as I am aware, failed to procure relief: and I am authorized by Mr. Parker to state, that she has most successfully prescribed for many patients by his merely giving their symptoms, and that frequently after the ordinary medical remedies have failed, especially in violent cases of typhus fever, diarrhoea, external inflammation, consumption, rheumatism, and tic douloureux. Mrs. Bird can also give the phrenological development of any person's brain who may be present, when she is in sleep-waking. One case I will mention. A lady, with whom Mrs. Bird was not previously acquainted, entered the room after Mrs. B. was mesmerized, and the lady herself declared that Mrs. B. had given as correct a description of her character as if she had known her twenty years. The lady wore a thick dark bonnet the whole time she was present. There have been several other equally striking instances, but space forbids my entering into their details.

It may now be asked, what benefit has Mrs. Bird herself derived from mesmerism, as she is still reported to be a great invalid? My reply is, that external circumstances weighing on her mind are the cause of her present bodily sufferings, as I venture to assert (and in this I am borne out by Mr. Parker's opinion) that a great majority of the spasmodic affections she has lately suffered from, have been produced by mental depression. Even conscious innocence cannot bear up against continued public detraction. It will be seen by reference to Mr. Parker's statement, that Mrs. B. was (previously to being mesmerized) suffering daily from violent epileptic fits. She vomited nearly all her food, and her agonies from tic were scarcely to be endured. She has not had a fit since the 9th of June, and only three since the 1st of January. The tic has been in comparison (except when mentioned in the previous part of the case) next to nothing since the first day she was mesmerized; and she has vomited food but three or four times since the early part of July, and in every instance has this been occasioned by her moving too soon after eating.

Mrs. B.'s side (uterus) now causes her no inconvenience.

I, in conclusion, hope that the interest of the case will be sufficient apology for my giving it in the form of a diary; and should the perusal of these pages induce but one person to persevere in a mesmeric case, notwithstanding apparently insurmountable difficulties, it will greatly add to the pleasure I have received during the progress of my labors. Many cases I am confident fail for want of sufficient time being devoted to them.

Much has been said respecting the substance which Mrs. Bird ejected from her stomach, and of course the antimesmerists in the neighborhood cannot be induced to believe one word about her having vomited any substance containing arsenic. Some report that we assert she vomited pure arsenic; others insinuate that the substance which I say she vomited did not come from her stomach, but was placed in her mouth and from thence ejected merely for the purpose of deception; and this they considered proved, when it was discovered that Mrs. B. had caused arsenic to be purchased some little time before she vomited the gritty substance. I was aware of this months before they said a word about it; Mr. Parker knew it at the time it was procured; and who will it be supposed was our informant? Why Mrs. Bird herself! The fact is, the arsenic was never in her possession, but was brought by the chemist of whom she purchased it for the purpose of his using it in her garden, mixed with salt, to destroy slugs. The evening proving wet, he came over the next morning and buried it in the earth. During the night it was in Mrs. B.'s house; a person at the time staying with her had it locked away and kept the key, so that Mrs. Bird did not know where it was placed; and had she, there was no means of her getting at it.

As I am one of those foolish people who condescend to believe what they see, my opinion on the subject would not have been altered if Mrs. Bird had kept any quantity of arsenic in her possession. I assert (and I flatter myself that at least those who know me, and whose opinion I value, will not doubt my word) that on two occasions a gritty substance, subsequently found to obtain arsenic, was in my presence ejected from Mrs. Bird's stomach. As to her having concealed it in her mouth, that is quite out of the question, for she could not, during the time I was with her before it was ejected, have spoken plainly had there been anything in her mouth. Besides which, how was she to get it into the state in which it is, for anything to all appearance less like arsenic can scarcely be conceived. In one point of view it is perhaps unfortunate that Mrs. B. should have purchas-

ed arsenic at this particular time, as it enables uncandid people to insinuate that the said arsenic has been used for the purposes of deception. But leaving out of view the circumstance of both Mr. Parker and myself knowing all about her having procured the article, Mrs. B.'s openly sending for arsenic is I think a clear proof that no trick was intended, and strongly confirms my statement that she, on arousing, recollects nothing that has taken place during her sleep-waking. An impostor would not, I should say, do what would lead to certain detection. Added to this, the watery rash, garlic eructations, and pain in the calves of the legs, are indications of the presence of arsenic in the system. All these she experienced and complained of to Mr. Parker, long before mesmerism was even named in this neighborhood.

Once more; must not the system from some cause have been much paralysed, to allow of very good sal volatile being taken with only two parts out of three water? and I have, at the time she prescribed it for herself, often seen her take it of that strength. I hope I shall be excused this digression, as I feel, on Mrs. Bird's account, strongly on the subject, she having been branded as an impostor by those who can know nothing of her case.

My friend, Mr. Janson, has examined the ejected substance under a powerful microscope, and is satisfied it is not a mechanical mixture.

Mr. Herapath, the eminent chemist, has published the following letter in the *Western Times*:—

*"To the Editor of the Western Times."*

*"BRISTOL, Dec. 2d. 1846."*

"Sir,—My attention has been called to a controversy which has for some time been carried on in your city, upon the reality of certain exhibitions and statements in relation to mesmerism, and I have been solicited by the exhibitor on one side, and opponents on the other, to express an opinion upon the possibility of a large quantity of arsenic ('enough to kill 20 men') remaining in a living stomach for many years, and then of having been thrown up during mesmeric clairvoyance. Of course in the absence of more definite information I could, in reply, merely state that no such case had ever occurred in my experience, or within the course of my reading. Since then, Mr. Parker, surgeon, of Exeter, the exhibitor and advocate of mesmerism, has called upon me with the matter said to be ejected, and having expressed a wish to have all the facts inquired into, I obtained from him a small portion of each of the two packets, one of which he said had been caught and identified by a gentleman who was present at the time of ejection, and the other which had not been so identified. I have submitted those to chemical inquiry, and I find them to be nearly alike in appearance and chemical composition. They are pulverulent, and slightly ag-

glomerated, the color whitish—or rather white, with a shade of brown. The microscope shows the structure to be crystalline, and capable of depolarizing light; they contain one-twentieth part of their weight of arsenious acid, combined with lime as arsenite of lime; the remainder is crystalline carbonate of lime, with a little organic matter of animal origin. I did not weigh what I saw in Mr. Parker's possession, nor have I any means of knowing the entire weight of what was said to be ejected—what I received was half a grain of the identified, and four-tenths of a grain of the other, and I should judge them to be a tenth part of what I saw. If I am right in this, the total quantity of arsenious acid in it would be under half a grain—a quantity certainly not enough to kill an adult human being, and especially as it is partly neutralized by lime, which, to a certain extent, destroys its poisonous qualities. The smallest quantity of uncombined arsenious acid which is recorded as destroying life from its action on the stomach is six grains, and that was in the case of a child.

"Such a compound as that I refer to might be formed if 'arsenical solution,' arsenite of potassa and lime water, were mixed together in a neutral solution containing animal matter,\* but I cannot understand how it could remain in a human stomach for years, knowing as I do that the contents of almost every stomach is *acid*, from the presence of free hydrochloric acid and biphosphate of lime, both of which would constantly tend to dissolve and decompose it.

"I have neither the time nor the inclination to be drawn into a controversy of such a length as this appears to be, and I would respectfully recommend the belligerents to abandon the mere expression of opinion, and to resort to the application of *practical tests* to prove or disprove the possession of the powers claimed—thus *strangers* with diseases *not apparent* might surely be subjected to the clairvoyant by disinterested persons. If she judges rightly in a majority of cases, a favorable opinion would follow, and in the Exeter Infirmary patients about to submit to surgical operations could be mesmerized—if only two or three of them underwent the operations without feeling pain more would be done to establish mesmerism than by writing hundreds of columns in newspapers.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
"WILLIAM HERAPATH."

It will be observed that Mr. Herapath considers both the specimens given to him by Mr. Parker "nearly alike in appearance and chemical composition." Dr. William Gregory, to whose report I shall hereafter refer, coincides in this opinion. I therefore consider it proved that the substance ejected in my presence, and what was before vomited, are essentially identical in their contents. With

regard to Mr. Herapath's assertion that he cannot understand how it could remain in the human stomach so many years, &c., it must be taken with the due consideration that, although a *most eminent chemist*, he is *not*, I believe, a medical man; and also that the question was put to him, as to arsenic enough to kill twenty men. I should before have stated that the entire quantity of gritty substance ejected by Mrs. Bird is about one drachm. It has been stated that Mrs. B. took but a single half ounce of liquor arsenicalis, which would contain rather more than two grains of arsenic. This is *not the case*, as Mr. Parker well knows from statements received when he in 1834 became her sole medical attendant. The liquor arsenicalis was sometimes procured by her late husband, and sometimes by a servant. Mr. Bird, being in a public office, was in the habit of purchasing things at different chemists who frequented the office in which he was engaged. I mention this, as a druggist in Exeter has stated that only once did he make up a prescription for Mrs. Bird containing arsenic. Her then medical attendant, from whom Mrs. B. received the greatest kindness and attention while under his care, frequently himself brought medicines in his pocket for her; but whether that containing liquor arsenicalis formed any part of them, we have no means of ascertaining.

I now with great pleasure come to the analysis and opinion of Dr. William Gregory, Professor in the University of Edinburgh; but before doing so, I confess my utter want of language *adequately* to express my sense of the obligation we are under to him for the unremitting attention he has paid, and trouble he has taken, to determine the contents of the substance submitted to him, and also for allowing us to publish so full a report of his labors and opinions. Dr. Gregory, it will be recollected, is not only a chemist, but also an eminent physician, and the translator of all Liebig's works on chemistry known in this country.

*Dr. Gregory's Analysis, extracted from a letter addressed to Mr. Parker.*

"297 milligrammes of the powder, about 4.5 grains, were boiled ten times in succession, each time with about 30 grammes of distilled water, and the solutions filtered, united, and evaporated to dryness in the vapor bath. The liquid when very concentrated became covered with a film, which is the case with a solution of arsenite of lime. A little organic matter, of a brown color, separated towards the end of the evaporation, but when dry, the residue was nearly white, the organic matter being masked by the arsenite of lime. It weighed, after being heated for a long time at 212°, 45.5 milligrammes. This dried mass had all the characters of a similar one obtained by boiling

\* "The patient is said to have formerly taken these as medicines at the same time."

arsenite of lime with water, and drying up the solution. In both cases the film appeared, and if any crystallization existed in the dry mass, it was very confused in both.

"The mass was dissolved in boiling water and filtered from a little organic matter which had become insoluble, or at least was not dissolved by this smaller quantity of boiling water. The solution in both cases was slightly alkaline to very delicate test-paper, indicating the presence of basic arsenite of lime. It gave a yellow precipitate, with nitrate of silver. In short, the solution was a nearly pure solution of arsenite of lime. In order to have a control for the quantity of arsenic present, I acidulated the liquid with hydrochloric acid, and precipitated the arsenic by a current of sulphuretted hydrogen gas. The sulphuret of arsenic was formed very abundantly, and of a perfectly pure yellow color. After standing in a warm place till all the smell of sulphuretted hydrogen was gone, the liquid was thrown on a filter, and the sulphuret of arsenic well washed. It was then dissolved in ammonia, the solution dried up, and the residue, sulphuret of arsenic, with a trace of organic matter, after being heated to  $212^{\circ}$  for half an hour, that is, till it ceased to lose weight, weighed 30.0 milligrammes, equivalent to 24.1 milligrammes of arsenious acid, or to 44.9 milligrammes of basic arsenite of lime.

"The matter dissolved from the powder by boiling water therefore, consisted of,

Basic arsenite of lime,	44.9 mill.
Organic matter and loss,	0.6 "
	<hr/> 45.5

And it contained 24.1 milligrammes, or about 0.372 of a grain (1.3 grain) of arsenious acid.

"That portion of the powder which had not been dissolved by the boiling water contained the carbonate of lime, colored by organic matter. It was dissolved, as well as what remained on the filter through which the boiling solutions had been filtered, in dilute hydrochloric acid; the solution neutralized by ammonia (which was added in slight excess, but caused no precipitate, indicating the entire absence of phosphate of lime), and precipitated by oxalate of ammonia. The precipitate was collected on a filter, well washed and dried. After being heated to  $212^{\circ}$ , till its weight became quite constant, it weighed 340 milligrammes, equivalent to 233 milligrammes of carbonate of lime. I should have said that the greater part of the organic matter remained undissolved when the original carbonate was acted on by hydrochloric acid, but its quantity was so small, and it adhered so tenaciously to the filter, that it was absolutely impossible to make a determination directly of its weight. It gave out when heated on platinum a smell of burnt animal matter, and no doubt contained a little albuminous or gelatinous matter.

"The result of the whole analysis, therefore, is as follows:

Carbonate of lime,	233 mill.,	or 3.989 grs.
Basic arsenite of lime,	44.9 "	0.372 "
Organic matter and loss,	19.1 "	0.138 "
	<hr/> 297.0 "	<hr/> 4.500

Or in 100 parts.

Carbonate of lime,	78.45
Basic arsenite of lime,	15.11
Organic matter and loss,	6.44

100.00

The proportion of arsenious acid in 100 parts is therefore 8.11

"Before analysing the powder, I again examined various portions of it under the microscope, and in many instances I perceived some irregular fragments having a decided appearance of crystallization; but the mass of powder is amorphous, under the weak power which I employed. The crystallized portions have not in any degree the aspect of the powder of arsenious acid; they much more resemble grains of carbonate of lime; and the observations of Mr. Herapath, made with a higher power, show, I have no doubt correctly, that the mass of the powder is crystalline carbonate of lime.

"From all these observations, joined to those in my former letters, I am decidedly of opinion that the arsenious acid present in the powder is entirely in the state of arsenite of lime, and that it consequently has not been introduced into the stomach or into the powder in the form of the powder of arsenious acid.

"Considering that your patient took the arsenic in the form of the liquor arsenicalis, and was at the time in the habit of taking lime water (a very unchemical prescription, by the way), it is quite easy to see how arsenite of lime should be formed in the stomach along with carbonate, and once formed, its great insolubility would not only account for its being found there after so long a time, but would also explain how so considerable an amount of arsenic should remain in the stomach without producing dangerous or even fatal effects. At the same time it is quite possible that a very small portion might occasionally be dissolved, and produce some of the toxicological effects of arsenic as long as it remained. We must bear in mind, too, that the arsenite of lime, besides its own insolubility, was further protected by the presence of carbonate of lime in large excess, and of agglutinating organic matter, which must have defended it from solvent action. That it must have been agglutinated is obvious, otherwise it could not have remained in the stomach; and there can, I think, be no doubt that, from the very peculiarly morbid state of the stomach and digestive powers, the solvent energy in this case was reduced to a minimum, and that, when the patient's health began to improve, and her stomach to assume in a greater degree its normal powers, the agglutinating matter was absorbed, and the insoluble mass, thus disintegrated, and more exposed to solvent action than before, may have excited vomiting, and thus caused its own rejection. The physical appearance and chemical character, as well as the composition of the powder, indicate very clearly that it has been the result of slow action, the organic matter being equally diffused in every part. It is out of the question to suppose that the powder could have been formed artificially by mixing



arsenious acid with carbonate of lime; for the arsenious acid has certainly not been introduced as a powder. I should say it has been precipitated in the stomach by degrees, carrying with it some organic matter, as all precipitates do in animal fluids; and I look on the characters of this powder as demonstrative evidence that it has been formed by a slow process in the stomach.

"From what I have already said, you will perceive that I do not see any reason why such a powder, enveloped no doubt in organic matter, should not have remained in the stomach for any length of time, as long as it formed a coherent mass, and that without destroying life. The arsenite of lime is so insoluble in water, and above all in cold alkaline solutions, that I should not hesitate to take a considerable dose of it. I should think a very large quantity would be required to destroy an animal, and the experiment might be made; always remembering that when enveloped in a large excess of carbonate of lime, and agglutinated by organic matter, it is still more insoluble than when pure. I do not therefore entertain a doubt, that 60 grains of this powder, containing 9.06 grains of basic arsenite of lime, equivalent to 4.86 grains of arsenious acid, might, under the circumstances, remain for any length of time in the stomach without producing fatal effects; although the patient might suffer in some degree from its presence. It is not certain that 4 or 5 grains of arsenious acid would prove fatal even if pure and uncombined, although it might probably do so. But it is probable that there was originally much more of the powder, and that it has gradually yielded to the solvent actions to which it has been exposed. The symptoms observed, more particularly the vomiting and the garlic eructations occurring after the use of salt, would seem to indicate that some portion, no doubt a very minute portion, of arsenic has been in some way dissolved, possibly by free hydrochloric acid, and has then acted on the system from time to time; and it is probable that, had no marked change taken place in the health of the patient, the same slow process of solution might have continued for an indefinite time. A sudden increase in the action of the absorbents has apparently hastened the termination of the process, and disintegrated the offending mass or concretion, so that the residue of it has been ejected from the stomach.

"The question having been specifically put to me, whether the gritty powder had the appearance of a mixture recently made with a view to imposture, I have no hesitation in saying, that it does not appear to me to possess in any degree the characters of such a mixture. The crystalline carbonate of lime, I think, must have been slowly formed in a solution containing organic matter, and the uniform diffusion of the organic matter in the powder leads to the same conclusion. It seems to me exceedingly improbable that an impostor should have thought of converting the arsenious acid into arsenite of lime; and, had the powder been a mixture of the kind suggested, the arsenious acid in all probability would

have appeared in it uncombined, and in the form of white grains, of which there is in fact no appearance.

"Even supposing an impostor to have known the mode of formation and the chemical characters of arsenite of lime, I consider it in the highest degree improbable that he should have been able to form such a powder as that which I have examined. I am sure that to imitate it would be a very difficult task for the most dexterous chemist.

(Signed) "WILLIAM GREGORY."

Mrs. Bird has for years had an insurmountable dislike to salt (first engendered by the unpleasant eructations previously alluded to), and consequently she never takes any with her food; hence it is more than probable that she has less hydrochloric acid in her stomach than is found in that of most other persons, and this would account for the arsenite of lime being so little acted on by the gastric juice.

J. C. LUXMOORE.

*Rose Mount, Alington, Devon.*

\*\*\* It is impossible for us to publish this case without expressing our admiration of Mr. Luxmoore's indefatigable kindness to the afflicted lady. He resides nearly four miles from her house, is a private gentleman, and a county magistrate, and his arduous exertions were prompted solely by benevolence and the love of scientific truth. Mr. Parker's conduct is likewise above all praise, surrounded as he is by brother medical men reviling him and mesmerism from morning to night. The case treated so perseveringly by Mr. Janson, and detailed in our last number, does him infinite honor: and the great ability and untiring, unflinching courage with which he has long castigated the ignorant and venomous foes of mesmerism in the Exeter papers, lays us all under deep obligation to him. He has compelled them to know and speak of The Zoist, which they would fain not know, or pretend not to know. The medical body of Exeter, with the exception of Mr. Parker, as far as we are aware, have acted a sad part by despising mesmerism, which properly belongs to the profession, and by allowing two gentlemen not of the profession to stand forth proudly as its noblest champions, cultivators, and propagators in their stead.—*Zoist*.

# EXTRAORDINARY EFFECTS OF MESMERISM ON A GENTLEMAN, PERFECTLY BLIND FOR ELEVEN YRS.

[Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.]

DR. ELLIOTSON begs to forward the following letter to *The Zoist*, from Dr. Chandler, of Rotherhithe.

*Conduit Street, March 10th, 1847.*

To Dr. Elliotson :

My dear Sir :—The following very curious and interesting case was introduced to my notice by Dr. Toulmin, of Blackheath, who, having witnessed some of my mesmerist cases, did not hesitate to admit that he believed his own eyes,—though perhaps he “knows human kind” quite as well as some others who suppose their retine to act as flattering mirrors.

Of course this patient has been malingering for the last 14 years, on purpose to gratify any mesmerist with whom he might happen to come in contact.

Capt. Peach, æt. 55, has formerly commanded large East India ships, and, having three times circumnavigated the globe, has consequently been exposed to frequent alternations of climate, which, together with severe losses by a very protracted Chancery suit, have probably been the cause of the following severe and complicated diseases of his nervous system.

He has been completely amaurotic in both eyes for eleven years. This was about three years coming on; one eye going first, and afterwards the other. For about eleven years he has not been able to distinguish the brightest light from total darkness, except on one or two occasions for a few seconds only, when, under the influence of belladonna, he experienced slight glimmerings of light. He has suffered from partial paralysis of the lower limbs for about the same time. When sitting, he has the power of moving the legs; and, when placed upright, he can balance himself, but cannot raise his foot from the ground. For about six or seven years he has been constantly subject to the most severe intermittent darting pains (of a Tic character) in his limbs; these pains have always been capriciously erratic, but never attacking the trunk or head: he has also had spasmodic tension of the muscles of the lower part of the abdomen frequently to a most distressing degree. But the symptom which he describes as causing him the most intense suffering, since last June, has been a gnawing dull pain in the lower part of the spine, occurring generally on his awaking in the morning, of so desperate a character as to call for his being immediately got up and dressed. The altera-

tion of position appears to afford him some relief. These attacks will occur for several days together; he then may get a few days intermission. They appear connected with a very copious discharge of blood from the bowels, that has existed for three or four years, though the attacks and discharge are now noticed to be invariably simultaneous; and the latter has been observed to be much more copious since the lumbar pains have commenced.

These protracted and severe afflictions have at length produced a high state of nervous irritability, destroying rest and appetite to such an extent that he is worn almost to a skeleton. His pulse is always 100, and often 120; and he gets no sleep but what is produced by narcotics.

Mr. Watsford, of Greenwich, who has attended him for many years, has frequently told him and several members of his family, that medicine could be of no use to him;—but, however, when the pains have been exceedingly urgent (giving occasion to screams which alarmed the neighborhood), Mr. W. has been sent for, and has always administered strong narcotics, which, though they lulled the pains for the time, left him stupid for two or three days.

For several years he has been distressed by extreme flatulence after the smallest quantity of food;—indicative of greatly impaired digestion.

Dr. Toulmin, of Blackheath, who has paid him much disinterested attention for the last few months, and has tried various means, including belladonna and veratrina, &c., asked me to see him in August last, and to say if I thought mesmerism would be likely to benefit him. After a careful investigation of the case, I pronounced it to be apparently a very hopeless one; but, knowing what wonders mesmerism had worked in cases equally forlorn, I recommended that it should be tried if any one could be found in the neighborhood who would undertake it. Accordingly his mother, an old lady of more than 70, and the servant, an ignorant Irish girl, commenced mesmerizing him, and produced, after a very few trials, a most decidedly soothing effect.

Shortly after, I had an opportunity of introducing the case to the notice of Mr. Holland, of New Cross, who is a most enthusiastic non-professional supporter of mesmerism, and he immediately took it in hand; and, as the wonders he has worked will be best related in his own words, I beg to subjoin his reports of the case to me, unabridged.

Laurie Terrace, New Cross, }  
5th December, 1846. }

Thomas Chandler, Esq.

My dear Sir,—Your own personal obser-

vations, and our communications from time to time, will have made you aware, generally, of the favorable impression which mesmerism has effected in the, otherwise, desperate case of your Blackheath patient, Captain Daniel Peach, so long a martyr to a melancholy complication of ills.

In compliance with your wish, I have now the gratification to communicate a connected statement of my proceedings in this case, and their results.

After you had introduced me at the London Hospital, on the 26th August last, to Dr. Toulmin, as an amateur residing in the "neighborhood" of the patient, to wit, something more than a mile and a half distant, I lost no time in waiting upon that gentleman, at his residence at Blackheath, with the object of being made acquainted with full particulars. These were frankly communicated, and I placed myself at his disposal. Dr. Toulmin is the Captain's neighbor, both figuratively and literally, and I need hardly add, that the application of mesmerism, in this case, has been with his entire sanction and approval, and, occasionally, in his presence:—indeed, he has stated to me on our leaving the patient's residence together that the tranquillizing effect which he had just witnessed, exceeded what he could have produced by the largest "safe" dose of opium, at the same time adding that he was not aware of any ordinary means by which equal amelioration of the general symptoms could have been effected.

I commenced operations on the 11th of September last, and, after six sittings, up to the 21st, the following is the spirit of the remarks which I find in my notes, as regards the amount of mesmeric influence. A tranquil state of abstraction is induced, with more or less of the ordinary consciousness remaining, accompanied by an involuntary closing of the eyes; there is also a perceptible dullness of sensation at the surface (and most probably deeper), with a continually increasing indisposition to motion of any kind. Towards the end of this series of sittings, the above effects have attained a species of intensity which promises the best results.

My mode of proceeding has been as follows:—The patient being seated, I have made downward passes, with and also without contact, before the face, trunk, and limbs, occasionally pointing at the eyes, or intently looking into one or other of them (it must be borne in mind that he is totally blind). Much to my surprise, I found, at length, that the look alone produced some marked physical effects; these, the patient describes as follows:—A dry irritation in the upper part of the eyeball, as if the upper lid were raised and a hard pencil passed over the organ; then a sensation of watering, as if occasioned by smoke, only re-

lieved by a strong closing of the lids. Sometimes the patient has felt as if a fine pencil of wind, proceeding from a point, impinged upon the centre of the eye-ball, occasioning a feeling of heat and mixing with the other symptoms, all which continue to be increased the longer the process is persevered in, so much so that he has more than once exclaimed, while strongly closing the lids, "It is very sharp to-night;" and on several occasions he has stated that the sensations amounted to positive "stinging," similar to that produced by "mustard," by "snuff," or by an "onion." Fluid collects in the corner of the eyes; or eye perhaps, if one only is stared or pointed at.

After being demesmerized, the patient is assisted to an erect position, in which I make contact passes down the spine and limbs, down the latter before and behind.

I have continued similar proceedings up to this date, about three times in each week, from an hour to an hour and a half on each occasion, with only the following slight variations, of having the patient placed at full length on a bed, instead of being seated in a chair, and my manipulating the spine and limbs while he was in the mesmeric state,—the latter mode was suggested by Dr. Elliotson as more likely to be beneficial, the former (the recumbent attitude) had been preferred all along by Dr. Toulmin and also by the patient. I elected to mesmerize him sitting (to him an uneasy position, from the weakness in the lumbar region), in order to be able with certainty to distinguish the mesmeric influence from ordinary sleep, the latter not being so likely to supervene in an uneasy position: as soon as rigidity manifested itself, there was no longer any necessity for this precaution.

The result of continuing mesmerism has been an increased intensity of all the phenomena—great insensibility of mechanical injury on the surface—loss of either ordinary consciousness, or of the recollection after the mesmeric state is over of the occurrences which took place during sleep-waking—inability to describe correctly in his sleep-waking the position in which his limbs may have been placed, for he is beautifully cataleptic, and his limbs obey attraction as distinctly as the limbs of patients whose organs of vision are perfect.\*

\* This exquisite fact I witnessed myself on the two occasions of my being allowed the favor of visiting this gentleman. The whole affair was so striking that, after my first visit to Blackheath, I requested permission to go again. On the second occasion I was anxious that the mesmerism might be begun when there was no possibility of the patient being aware of it. Accordingly, while we were all in conversation, Mr. Holland began to fix his eyes upon the patient, our conversation continuing equally as before. Presently the captain's eye-lids twinkled; he exclaimed, "Are you not mesmerizing me?" A drop of fluid appeared at the corner of one eye, and he was soon in sleep-waking.—JOHN ELLIOTSON

Up to the present moment the good which has been accomplished is as follows:

Total cessation, since the first week of his being mesmerized, of that excruciating pain at the bottom of the spine that was wearing him to a shadow. His shuddering recollection of this pain, which was comparatively recent, is more vivid than that of any other of his afflictions: his mode of expressing himself, in allusion to it, is "No tongue can tell the agony," &c.; "it struck my very vitals," &c.; "if I had the ability I should have made away with myself," &c., &c.

The hæmorrhage from the bowels (the consequence of internal hæmorrhoids, in the opinion of Mr. Watsford of Greenwich) has been entirely suppressed, not even a tinge having manifested itself since the first application of mesmerism.

The tension at the lower part of the abdomen, as well as the extreme flatulence, have entirely disappeared.

The capriciously erratic, and fierce darting pains (spasms of the "tic" character), whose attacks were almost incessant of late, and more or less present for years past, have been very considerably ameliorated; indeed, out of 85 days which have elapsed since he was mesmerized (from 11th September last), there have only been 13 on which these spasms have returned—one relapse continued for 5 consecutive days, the others were short, with two intervals of 14 and 19 days, respectively, on which there was no return of spasm at all. Immediately previously to mesmerism having been resorted to, and during the greater part of the preceding summer and spring, these spasms, together with the gnawing pain in the lumbar region, were so frightful, that the patient's cries often alarmed the neighborhood, and attracted the notice of policemen on duty near the spot.

On Friday, the 27th ult., I found him suffering from a return of these spasms, and, as the relief derived from mesmerism, on that occasion, epitomized the whole case in that regard, I add a verbatim extract from one of my notes of that evening.

"The potency of mesmerism strongly evidenced this evening—a return of spasm yesterday morning (inside of left thigh), very severe through the day and night—less so since this morning, but quite sufficiently marked. I had to attack him in the midst of intermittent spasm, and it was full 25 minutes (instead of 6 or 8 ordinarily) before he came under the influence—the paroxysm still continued for a quarter of an hour more, as evidenced by strong startings, but less and less violent, which did not, however, occasion the usual contortion of the countenance, and the ordinary exclamation. Finally, and for the last half hour up to being demesmerized,

he had the appearance of placidity personified, without the least motion of any kind. I dispersed the influence, as usual, by quiet transverse passes before the face—he awoke very gradually, commencing with sundry very energetic gapes, accompanied by various grimaces and contortions of the muscles of the face, as if each stood in need of being stretched (altogether indicative of the refreshing effect of deep sleep)—for some time he replied incoherently to my questions, appearing to be solely occupied with the process of awakening, and the first indication (to-night) of his senses being collected, was his exclamation, 'Thank God, the pain is gone.' When fully conscious, his countenance and manner were quite cheerful, and he entered into the spirit of some facetious remarks which ensued. This contrast was effected by mesmerism in less than two hours; he admitted that he had dropped off two or three times (in fact, the influence was very deep this evening), but, as usual, asserted that he was generally conscious of what was passing. In this he was wrong, as he was not aware that I had turned him on his side, in order to manipulate the spine; neither was he conscious that a young lady had won a pair of gloves of him, which she did very prettily at my instance."

The high state of nervous irritability into which his afflictions had plunged him, together with its exponent, viz. a weak pulse from 100 to 120, or even 140, have entirely subsided; his appetite, with slight exceptions, continues good; his spirits are improved, his strength increased, and he usually rests well, the pulse ranging from 72 to 85, or very rarely 90. He has partially discontinued the use of Batley's Sedative Drops (wholly omitted on the nights of being mesmerized), and entirely that of stimulants (ale, wine, spirits, &c.), which Dr. Toulmin had recommended with a view to counteract the tendency to "sinking," which his late distressing symptoms occasioned.

The partial paralysis of the lower extremities remains much the same, as regards voluntary motion (or rather the want of it) in an erect position; nevertheless a tendency to increased power is also perceptible here.

In ordinary circumstances, it would be "hoping against hope," to expect a restoration of vision in this case,—but under the benign influence of the agent employed, what may not be accomplished! Already it has produced, on very many occasions, short intervals of "glimmer," so much so that the patient has been able to distinguish the return of day, as well as the "diffused whiteness," or "glare," from the fire or the flame of the candle. He has repeatedly inquired, "Is it not a very bright day?" "Is not the

fire very bright?" I presume that these interruptions of the perfect blindness (which is ordinarily so complete, that I have repeatedly, by means of a lens, condensed the image of the flame of the candle upon the pupil of his eye, so as exactly to fill it, of all which he has remained totally unconscious) indicate merely functional debility in the visual organs, without alteration in their structure; if so, let us hope on and persevere, looking to our polar star, which, in the teeth of adverse influences, has for the last ten or twelve years maintained its due elevation, and continued to shine with undimmed brightness, the centre of an increasing galaxy of similar intelligences.

If I could spare the time to mesmerize this patient every day, I have no doubt that matters would move faster, and therefore more satisfactorily. My avocations will not, however, permit this; and it is clear that cases of this description could only be met by a public establishment, devoted to the diffusion of the incalculable benefits flowing from the beneficent agent which we employ.

Believe me very truly yours,  
J. HOLLAND.

Laurie Terrace, New Cross, }  
6th March, 1847. }

Thomas Chandler, Esq.

My dear Sir,—I have the pleasure to inform you that, notwithstanding the trying character of the season from which we are now about to emerge, our patient, Captain Peach, has, by the continued aid of mesmerism, been preserved in a comparative state of ease, in the teeth of the debilitating tendency of his exotic mode of existence.

Since the 27th November last, he has had but one severe relapse (spasm), which commenced on the morning of the 12th of January last, and tormented him incessantly through the whole day. I visited him in the evening; and, contrary to my expectation, he was fully mesmerized in less than one minute, advantage having been taken of a temporary lull. On this occasion the attack was in the upper part of the large muscle on the under side of the left thigh, and was proportionally violent, returning almost directly after he was mesmerized. Each spasm lasted from 2 to 4 or 5 seconds, and recurred at intervals of from 20 to 40 seconds (by my watch), with occasional lulls of greater duration. There was the ordinary expression of agony, accompanied by a suppressed inarticulate cry, but without the least tendency to rouse the patient from the mesmeric state; indeed his countenance relaxed into perfect placidity the instant the several attacks passed off. I manipulated incessantly, and it was only at the end of the first 50 minutes that there was a perceptible

diminution of the symptoms; but at the expiration of 20 minutes more, he was sleeping like an infant, and continued so for other 20 minutes, when I left him, thinking that it would be more beneficial to suffer the influence to exhaust itself; besides which, I dreaded to awaken him, lest the attack should return and the labor have to be recommenced. However, there has not been any return, but he was very much shattered for two or three days: still he came round more kindly than had been his wont on former occasions before mesmerism was resorted to.

None of his other late complicated afflictions have returned since the date of my former letter.

I may mention that the fixed look alone continues to produce a highly irritating effect on the patient's eyes; and, if continued for 10 minutes or a quarter of an hour, becomes totally unbearable; they water copiously, and put on a highly inflamed appearance; the nasal passages also sympathize. This treatment has been repeated perseveringly with the object of rousing the paralysed optic nerve to natural action, and I am much disappointed at its not yet having had that result, more particularly as such high susceptibility to nature's own stimulus ought, one would think, to act in that direction. The main difficulty, no doubt, arises from the affection having been so long established, and being so deeply seated. This view is borne out by the fact that the late frightful pain in the lumbar region, which was of comparatively recent occurrence, yielded almost instantaneously to the mesmeric influence.

Independently of the grave afflictions mentioned in my former letter, he has suffered for a long time from various comparatively minor complaints, which have only been mentioned to me, when attention has been drawn to them in consequence of an amelioration having taken place. Among these may be mentioned an insensibility (of very long standing) in the parts administering to micturition, and also a chronic "weakness" in the inside of the left thigh. The latter has totally disappeared for some time past, and the former has been considerably relieved.

There is no indication in the mesmeric state of any exaltation of the senses or faculties in this patient, nor indeed of any other "high phenomena;" but it may be worth while to state that, in addition to the induced rigidity formerly mentioned, the sensation of thirst can invariably be brought on by merely placing the ends of my fingers lightly under the patient's chin. The sensation is always indicated by a sucking and swallowing action, and *viva* the question be asked. That this fact is not the

result of "association" or "mental suggestion," was fully demonstrated by the following occurrence. On the first occasion of my trying the experiment, Mrs. Peach's notice was attracted to it, and a circumstance was thereby recalled to her mind, which to her had no significance at the time. Some time previously the servant was mesmerizing her master (who was seated), in the course of which ordinary sleep was combined with the mesmeric influence, and his "jaw dropped." Her mistress directed her to "put it up." In performing this evolution, the captain called out, "What is Jane doing?" &c., &c.: at the same time complaining of thirst, and distinctly showing by the sucking and swallowing action, that the salivary glands were excited. Some surprise was felt at the time, but the occurrence had been altogether dismissed, and was only recalled from witnessing my experiment.

I cannot note any decided alteration as regards the amaurosis, or the partial paralysis of the lower limbs. Still the fitful "glimmerings" continue to recur, and there is a very perceptible increase of strength, though voluntary motion (in the erect position) is not at command. However, his general health is certainly improved, his spirits are better, and his appetite is not to be found fault with; a bad night is now the exception.

He is making the attempt to discontinue opiates, and hitherto, has succeeded better than could have been expected. His perseverance has been stimulated by having Miss Martineau's case read to him. This experiment was commenced on Saturday, the 20th ult., since when he has abstained altogether. He has had three or four sleepless nights in consequence, accompanied by great restlessness and craving; the effects of which have, invariably, been removed entirely, by the next dose of "nature's sedative," instead of "Batley's."

The patient has large expectations that the "advance of the sun" will tell in his favor. Hoping they may be realized,

I remain, my dear Sir,

Yours, very truly,

J. HOLLAND.

What can be more beautiful and conclusive than this case? Yet no doubt our scientific (?) profession will find something to cavil at. I do not complain of medical men refusing to believe mesmerism from mere report; it would, indeed, be unworthy of them to do so. But, when they see some of the first men, not only in our own profession, but also in the church and at the bar, openly and enthusiastically advocating the cause, I think they might at least examine for themselves. And I do not hesitate to state that he must be a most unfor-

tunate individual who, taking five persons indiscriminately for the purpose of experiment, does not find at least one of them susceptible at the first trial. I am quite sure the average is much above this in my own practice. I may instance an extraordinary circumstance which lately happened to me, by which a whole party became convinced of the truth of mesmerism. In January I went to Devizes to meet a party of relations and friends at dinner. Mesmerism was of course talked of, and many a joke passed at my expense, but you shall see how I turned the tables. Having offered to mesmerize any of the party (but without pledging myself to be successful), a lady volunteered. Her husband objected; I, however, left him with his wine and joined the ladies. The offer was soon renewed, and I commenced: in ten minutes she became a living statue, though for the first five she was talking and laughing incredulously; I then called her husband and the rest of the party to see her, and much enjoyed their look of amazement and fright; they did not doubt her being asleep, and the next question was, how I was going to awake her, for she could not even smile when her husband spoke to her, though of a very lively disposition. After three quarters of an hour I convinced them that I could dissipate the effect as easily as I had produced it, and in a few minutes restored her to her former self. She described her sensations as having been most delightful. She had been perfectly conscious, but could not speak or move. She heard her husband cough, and wished to speak to him, but could not articulate.

This lady is not a young hysterical female, but the mother of a large family, some of them as tall as herself; she is well known to the whole neighborhood, and I have no doubt the affair will make a little talk in the town.

Cases of this description make more converts than public exhibitions; indeed mesmerism had been much depreciated in the town of Devizes some years before by an itinerant mesmerizer, who could not of course inspire that confidence in his auditors, without which the most genuine phenomena appear like imposition.

In reference to the ether mania, which is now in course of finding its proper level, it may be remarked that mesmerists can have no objection to its monopolizing operative surgery. They would only wish to receive the same justice as regards their results, at the hands of the profession, that has been so eagerly accorded to the new agent.

I remain yours, very truly,

THOMAS CHANDLER.

58 Paradise street, Rotherhithe, }

March 10th, 1817. }

## CURE OF ST. VITUS'S DANCE.

(By Dr. Engledue.)

DR. ENGLDUE states that he has sent us "the following case of cure of St. Vitus's dance, not because there is anything unusual in the course pursued, but because it is another instance of the value of mesmerism after the usual medical appliances had been tried in vain.

John C——, aged nine years, had been suffering for more than a month from St. Vitus's dance. His father consulted me in June, 1846. He presented the usual appearances, which it is unnecessary to enumerate. He could neither walk nor feed himself, and was in a truly miserable condition. After the administration of purgatives, he was placed under the influence of iron, and this was continued in gradually increasing doses for six weeks, at the expiration of which period he was not in the least degree improved, though no doubt further perseverance would have cured him. However, I persuaded his father to take the cure into his own hands, to abandon medicine and to try mesmerism, having witnessed its beneficial effects in other cases. He acceded to my wish, and made passes before his son for half an hour, night and morning. At the end of a fortnight there was a slight improvement. In three weeks this was much more manifest, and in two months he was quite well. During the whole of this period he took no medicine. While the disease existed he did not pass into mesmeric sleep, but so soon as this disappeared, his father was enabled to send him into the trance with the greatest ease. I believe this is not unusual. Sleep is not essential. Although in the majority of cases it is to be looked for, and to be wished for, nevertheless it is not necessary for the cure of disease.

Southsea, Hants.

## CURE OF TIC DOULOUREUX.\*

(By Miss Collins.)

DR. ELLIOTSON begs to forward the enclosed to The Zoist.

Conduit street, Jan., 1847.

Newark, Dec. 23, 1846.

Dear Dr. Elliotson.—The accompanying case I take the liberty of forwarding to you, as I feel persuaded it will afford you pleasure

to know that mesmerism has again proved of infinite service in a most obstinate complaint, the sufferer from which had tried all means that the faculty advised for her recovery. But all was found to be alike unsuccessful, until she had recourse to mesmerism. About the same time that Miss Wolstenholme was afflicted and deriving benefit from mesmerism, a young lady, a friend of mine, was troubled fearfully with the same malady (tic douloureux), when my mother undertook to apply the same means, and which were attended with equal success. She was mesmerized every day for about a fortnight, when she was quite cured, and she has had no return of pain since.

I am happy to say I am quite well; and with grateful remembrances again apologizing for the intrusion upon your time,

I am, dear Dr. Elliotson,

Yours ever obliged,

ELEANOR COLLINS.

John Elliotson, Esq., M.D.,  
London.

## [SEVERE CASE OF TIC DOULOUREUX.]

On the 24th June, 1846, Mr. Wolstenholme, an officer of Excise, called upon my father to borrow an electrical machine, in order to employ it for his daughter, who is about 24 years of age, and was suffering, and had suffered for several years, with tic douloureux. As the instrument was not in Newark at the time, my father advised mesmerism to be tried, and I am happy to say it was employed with complete success. My father and I went to her house during the afternoon, and Miss Wolstenholme informed us that she had been suffering from tic douloureux in both sides of the face for nearly five years, and to so great a degree that she dared not, during the whole of last winter, venture into a room where there was a fire, but was obliged to remain up stairs in a cold apartment; and her sufferings were so great, that her life, she stated, was perfectly miserable. She had been under medical treatment for two months, but grew worse instead of better, though everything that could be thought of had been tried for her relief. I saw her this afternoon for the first time, in company with my father, who mesmerized her by downward passes for half an hour. In fourteen minutes she appeared drowsy, but did not go to sleep. At the expiration of the half hour the pain had diminished. My father then locally mesmerized her, which produced great pain in her arms and legs, more especially in the right arm, as well as pain under the left ear; but all was removed before we had been there an hour, and we left her feeling very comfortable.

\* The cure of this young lady's contracted foot by mesmerism, and the history of the beautiful phenomena of her mesmeric state, will amply repay the perusal in Nos. xi. and xii.

25th. The patient came to our house this morning much better; she had had but little pain in the night, and very little this morning early. The effects by mesmerizing her were the same as those produced yesterday, with the addition of pain in the neck. The general and local mesmerization lasted for three quarters of an hour, when she said that she felt better than she had done for months; and she returned home quite free from pain. She called in the evening to be mesmerized, as slight pain had come on about five o'clock. She went away quite well.

27th. Has had no pain in the night, but she had a very little in the morning early.

28th. Her health and general appearance much improved, though sleep has not yet been produced. Violent pain returned for an hour at six o'clock in the evening, and for ten minutes at half-past nine.

29th. My father being obliged to leave home for a few weeks, she became my patient, and this morning I mesmerized her; she would have gone to sleep but for several interruptions. She had no pain at all on the 30th or following day, and only very little for a short time in the evening at the usual hour (five o'clock). Whilst mesmerizing her on the last-mentioned day, she experienced the sensation of hot water running down the left side.

July 2d. Had no pain since yesterday, except for a very few minutes this morning. After mesmerizing her for twenty minutes, she fell into a light and quiet sleep, which lasted for seven or eight minutes, and was exceedingly sleepy the whole of the half hour. Extreme pain came on for an hour in the afternoon, which she attributed to having walked very quickly.

3d. Went to sleep in a quarter of an hour, and slept six minutes; experienced great stiffness, and a prickly sensation in the left arm and hand.

4th. She says her pain daily diminishes. I made only a few downward passes to-day, but kept my fingers pointing at her eyes, which made her drowsy in a very few minutes; she slept for a quarter of an hour much deeper than she has hitherto done. Excruciating pain came on in the neck and head, which was removed by breathing upon, and then blowing over, the seats of the pain.

5th. Had a deal of pain before she went to bed; did not rest quite so well, and suffered very much till I mesmerized her. She attributed these uncomfortable feelings to the change of weather. I locally mesmerized her for an hour and a half, when she assured me she was quite easy again.

6th. She went into the mesmeric state in a quarter of an hour, and remained in it for sixteen minutes. She could recollect every-

thing when she awoke, but said that while asleep she could hear very indistinctly, and felt all over as heavy as lead, and that sometimes she fancied she was falling into some place, and at other times that some one wanted her and pulled her head to the left—towards the place where I was then sitting.

7th. I mesmerized her for half an hour, when she slept for twenty-five minutes. Went away quite well.

8th. Had a very good night, and no pain since she left me at twelve o'clock yesterday morning. She went to sleep in ten minutes, and slept for twenty minutes. In the evening, though she had had no pain, I mesmerized her again; she slept for thirteen minutes, when something in the street disturbed her; but in five minutes she again went to sleep, and remained for a quarter of an hour.

9th. Daily improves, and in ten minutes the sleep was induced, and she remained in it for twenty minutes, and for thirty on the following day. I locally mesmerized the face before she went to sleep, and removed the pain in two minutes.

11th. Did not succeed in getting her to sleep, but sent her home quite well.

12th, 13th, and 14th. No pain except for a very few minutes. Went to sleep in five minutes and slept for half an hour. I asked her several questions, which she answered in a whisper.

15th. Pain gradually diminishing. In four minutes she was in a sound sleep, which continued for a quarter of an hour; again in the evening for twenty minutes. She had a severe pain in her head, which was greatly relieved by local mesmerism.

16th. Had no pain since I saw her yesterday.

17th. Has had pain in her face since yesterday afternoon. I took all pain away before she left, but it returned in two hours afterwards, and did not leave her till mesmerized this morning, when she went to sleep in five minutes, and slept for twenty: she went away quite well.

18th. Much better to-day; has had no pain since I mesmerized her last evening. I got her to sleep in three minutes, and she slept comfortably for half an hour. She fancied, as has been usual, lately, that her head was separated from her body.

20th. To-day my mother mesmerized her for me. She did not go to sleep, but said she felt as though hot water was running down her. The pain, which comes on but occasionally, now lasts but a very few minutes, and then is so slight as not be worth naming.

21st, 22d, 23d. Three minutes is now sufficient to send her to sleep, in which she remains happily and soundly for about half



an hour, when it expends itself and she awakes spontaneously. If by any chance she awakes before the usual time, two or three passes will send her off again.

28th. Very well indeed, and came for the last time.

Dec. 23d. I saw Miss Wolstenholme to-day, and she informs me that she has had no pain whatever since last June, and that she is now quite well.

ELEANOR COLLINS.

Newark, Dec. 23d, 1846.

"I have carefully read over the above statement of my case, and declare that every part of it is strictly correct.

"MARY ANN WOLSTENHOLME."

# CASES OF TIC DOULOUREUX AND OTHER NERVOUS AFFECTIONS, CURED WITH MESMERISM.

(By Dr. Storax.)

27 Brock street, Bath, }  
Dec. 1st, 1846. }

CASE I.—A gentleman, residing at Lansdown Place, called in February last to consult me about his wife, who had been suffering for a long time from acute pains and restlessness; she had had no sleep for the last two or three weeks, notwithstanding opiates had been prescribed by her medical attendants. He wished to know if mesmerism would be of any use; I told him I thought it would, and made an appointment to see her at six o'clock in the evening.

I found the patient in bed, in great pain; she told me candidly, that she only consented to see me to oblige her husband; she had no belief in mesmerism, and therefore did not expect any benefit.

I proposed a trial, to which she consented, and though interrupted two or three times by her own remarks, I was enabled to induce sleep in less than twenty minutes,—by half-past six. She remained in this state until nine o'clock, when she awoke, asked the time, appeared surprised, turned her head, and again fell asleep, and continued in this state until the next morning, six o'clock. She told her husband how refreshed she felt, and how much better she really was.

This report I received when I called the next day.

The patient's appearance also corroborated this statement as regards her looks. I then proposed a second trial: she said it was perfectly useless, then, as she felt so much better and refreshed, that she was certain mesmerism could not produce any further effect.

She wished the operation postponed; I urged the present time, as it would more decidedly test its power. She incredulously consented, and told me, whilst trying her, I was only wasting my time; but opposed to all this, in less than twenty minutes, she was again asleep,—about half-past ten o'clock. A conversation was held in the room that did not disturb her, and I left directions for her to be allowed to sleep on. This she did until past two o'clock,—when being told the time, she made an effort to rouse herself,—and having friends present, succeeded. She awoke quite free from pains, dressed in the afternoon, and again passed another comfortable night. I wished to continue my attendance during the week, but a summons to the country prevented that; though I was glad to be informed some time afterwards, that the pains and sleeplessness were both removed, and her general health improved.

CASE II.—A lady, residing at Camden Place, Bath, sent for me in July last to see her. I was informed that she had been suffering from violent pains about her head and face for the last few weeks; she had been attended by two medical gentlemen, who considered the case to be tic douloureux, and prescribed various remedies, but without any good effects. A friend of her's, who had been greatly benefited by mesmerism, advised a trial; the lady consented, but told me she expected no benefit, having no belief in its powers.

I saw her on Sunday about two o'clock, for the first time, and found her suffering from acute pain, particularly on the right side of the face and temple. After a short time, I proposed a trial of mesmerism, and in a quarter of an hour produced sleep, with apparent freedom from pain. She remained in this state for half an hour, when I demesmerized her. She said she was now certainly free from pain, but she could not believe that to be the effect of mesmerism, inasmuch as she had not been to sleep; she however requested me to see her again soon, as about six o'clock the pains were always more violent. I returned about that time; she had been better since I left, but was evidently fearing the threatened attack, which was however much slighter than usual. I mesmerized her in less than ten minutes. There were, as before, two friends of her's, present, who, knowing her expressed denial of the first sleep, now requested me to adopt some plan to satisfy her own mind when awake.

I moved the arms backwards and forwards several times, and placed one hand for five minutes over her face. After the half hour I again woke her, as her friends did not like my leaving her in the mesmeric state, which I wished.

When demesmerized, she was quite free from pain; but again doubted having been affected, until satisfied by her own friends of what had occurred. Monday morning, I was informed that the patient had passed a quiet evening, had refreshing sleep, and only a slight return of pain this morning when she left her bed-room. All her doubts had vanished, and she had been anxiously looking for me. I again mesmerized her about ten o'clock and left her to awake spontaneously, which she did about one o'clock, and remained perfectly comfortable during the day. I saw her again in the evening, and left her asleep. On Tuesday I was told she had passed an excellent night, and had no return of the pain in the morning. I mesmerized her about three o'clock, and though the sleep did not last very long, she continued free from pain, and passed a good night. I continued my visits during the week. She had no return of the pains, says she feels her health generally improved, and intends next week going on a visit to some friends. I heard from this lady two months afterwards, and she says that she has had no return whatever of her pains, and that if they should again annoy her, she will lose no time in having applied the only remedy she has yet found successful.

**CASE III.—MOST VIOLENT CASE OF TIC DOULOUREUX GREATLY RELIEVED.**

Mrs. West, ætat. 50, residing at St. James's Parade, was sent to me in January last, by a medical gentleman residing here, with an opinion from him to the following effect:—that it was one of the worst cases he had ever seen, and that he had exhausted all his means without doing any good. The poor woman states, that she has suffered severely for the last three or four years, that sometimes the pain is so severe as to cause her to bite her lips, that she has frequently been without sleep for two or three weeks together, her eyes are constantly suffused with tears, and her mouth drawn aside by the pain. She has had several teeth removed with the hope of relief, but all to no avail. She has been under several medical men, and her case has excited much commiseration.

I willingly consented to try mesmerism, and though it was commenced during the coldest part of last winter, after a fortnight's mesmerizing there was evidently induced a remission of the more severe symptoms; for instance, the pain lessened, she slept better, she was much more placid during the mesmeric sleep, though frequently awakened by spasm, and her eyes less watery. I steadily persevered for about six weeks, and had the extreme satisfaction of seeing a marked change for the better. From fear of being

troublesome, she unfortunately omitted to attend, and in three weeks' time she became worse; I then resumed mesmerism, and in a few days brought her round to her previous improved state.

I continued mesmerizing for another month, making fully three months, when she was so much improved, that some who met her did not know her for the same person. She now slept well, ate well, and was altogether a different person. In the summer she went away for two months, and imprudently sitting on the grass after rain, caught severe rheumatism, but her tic did not affect her. When she returned to Bath, finding her still suffering from rheumatism, she was again mesmerized, and in three weeks greatly relieved. The tic has scarcely returned. Should it do so, I have no doubt but that mesmerism will soon relieve it. She is now very susceptible of mesmerism, and when I am busy Mrs. Storer finds no difficulty in affecting her.

In such a very extreme case, with a disposition to rheumatism, I can hardly hope for an entire cessation; but the good already effected has gone beyond anything yet accomplished by medicine.

The gratitude of the poor woman is extreme, and, what is equally satisfactory, the good effects of mesmerism have in this case been acknowledged by three different medical men.

**CASE IV.—CASE OF GREAT NERVOUS DEBILITY AFFECTING THE HEAD.**

Mrs. H., a respectable married woman, consulted me some time since in reference to her general health; she complained of great general debility, which she described as making her feel quite exhausted, with a constant head-ache, rendering her unequal to her duties at home.

As she had taken a good deal of medicine, and without any benefit, her husband recommended her to try mesmerism. I found her very susceptible to its influence, and after a few times mesmerizing, her head-aches ceased, and her general health became much improved. She is very liable to cold, which generally affects the side, and has usually been treated by depletion; but her husband, perceiving the good effects of mesmerism in the first instance, when her next attack began, in July last, sent for me. I found her with pains all over her, particularly in the side, and viewed the case as pleuritis with rheumatism. Knowing her susceptibility, I at once mesmerized her, and left her asleep; she continued in this state for nearly three hours, and when she awoke, expressed herself much freer from pain. I saw her in the evening, and put her again to sleep.

Her husband informed me the next day

that she had slept nearly all night, and that in the morning she was much more free from pain, and the side also was considerably better: I found her up in an easy chair, and again mesmerized her. She remained in this position for two hours, and, when she awoke, expressed herself to be nearly well. I attended her for two days more, making only four during the illness. She is now quite well, and looking altogether improved. Her husband and herself assure me that her last attack was precisely similar to her former ones, and that she has generally been confined from two to three weeks, and always remained extremely weak for a considerable time, until the present occasion.

This individual has been mesmerized now by me a great many times. Her case presents, in a very marked degree, almost all the mesmeric states, and on each occasion, after mesmerism, she expresses herself better. I sometimes avail myself of her offer, when I wish to give a private demonstration on this subject, her object being, as she says, to extend the knowledge of so valuable a remedy.

#### P.S. NOTE TO MY EPILEPTIC CASES IN NO. XVI.

The number of these and similar cases, occurring amongst the poor in every city, is very great, and yet even a trial of the most simple and the safest remedy, mesmerism, is still withheld from our public hospitals.

It was only a short time since, that a gentleman here recommended a poor epileptic youth to one of the hospitals, and, having seen the good effects of mesmerism in several cases, ventured to suggest it to the medical officers. The written answer was, and that from one of the leading (!) men, "That none of the men of the Bath United Hospital understood the science (so called) of mesmerism." Another was asked some time since, why, in surgical cases, he did not give the poor, at least, the benefit of a trial; his reply was, because he thought there was nothing in it.

This same individual's attention was again more recently directed to the subject in consequence of the many painless surgical operations which had been actually performed. He then said, he should be afraid of trying it, lest apoplexy should ensue. What! apoplexy be induced by nothing. Certainly, between the two opinions, there is only one step from the ridiculous to the sublime.

In justice, however, to two or three of the medical gentlemen connected with the hospital, I beg to say that all are not unbelievers, and that it is only the existence of certain prejudices or obstructions that prevents them giving it a fair trial.

J. S.

## CURE OF INJURY OF THE SPINE AND CONTRACTION OF THE LEG.

(By Mr. H. Hudson.)

Liverpool, 30th Dec., 1846.

To the Editor of the *Zoist*:

DEAR SIR,—I perceive in your publication several accounts of cures effected by means of mesmerism, and think it will yet be made a great blessing to the community if properly applied. I cured a young woman in this town by means of it, whom I providentially met as I was looking for a place of worship. Perceiving she was quite lame and apparently in much pain, I proposed to mesmerize her. But not understanding what that meant, she did not know what to say, yet felt inclined to submit to anything calculated to do her good, but at the same time she said she had no money to pay me. I told her if I could cure her she would have nothing to pay. Upon inquiry, she informed me that about seven months since she had fallen while cleaning the outside of a window, and had injured her spine; the doctors called it a bruise of the spine; that she had been in York Infirmary five months, when she came to the one here, where she underwent several operations without receiving any benefit. She also said that she had had upwards of 200 leeches on her back, and had consulted about a dozen different doctors, but they could none of them do her any good.

During that time her left leg became contracted at the knee, so that she had to walk on her toes, and with great pain in her back. Her parents being very poor, she was almost reduced to the necessity of going to the poorhouse, having spent all her money, besides pledging her clothes for support. Her mother was present during our interview. I desired the young woman to sit down, and was enabled to put her in a trance in about four minutes; her mother thought she had fainted, but telling her she was asleep, I tried to make her sing by singing myself, when she immediately joined me. Having desired her mother to assist me, I took hold of her leg and brought it quite straight, without causing her the least pain. On trying if she could walk by exciting the organ of Self-Esteem, she did so quite well, which alarming her mother, she ran out and left the girl with me. In a few minutes her sister and another person came in, apparently much excited and alarmed, and I awoke her. It took me about four minutes, as she was in a very deep sleep. On asking her to walk across the floor, she got up and immediately said, "What have you been doing to my leg? it is now straight," and then walked about very well; but I perceived her heel was not properly on the

ground. Having asked her if her back was still painful, she said the pain was quite gone, but it felt sore. I put her to sleep again that evening and the day following; but the next day being the Sabbath, I left her till Monday, when I brought her leg into a rigid state, which stretched the sinew at the back of the heel. On waking her she said, "Thank God, I have got my heel to the ground again." I put her to sleep several times. On the Wednesday following, she stood all day at the wash-tub, and was perfectly cured. This was about four months since. I procured her a situation with a friend of mine (Mr. R. N., at Wallington, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne), where she has been ever since, without any return of her old complaint, and gives perfect satisfaction to her master and mistress. Her name is Elizabeth Harley, and she lived in Edmund Street with her mother. She lived last, when at service (where she left on account of her lameness), at Mr. Garthorpe's House of Correction, City of York.

This case has already been inserted in the *Liverpool Mercury*, and copied into several other papers from that. I have mesmerized several persons, and have always found it to do good when it takes proper effect. I will not trouble you further, but hoping this will meet with your approval, I have the honor to remain,

Your humble Servant,

H. HUDSON,

*Cor. Sec. of the Liverpool Seamen's Friend Society.*

P.S. We have made careful inquiries respecting the above-related particulars, and have ascertained that she lived with Mr. Garthorpe; was injured in her back, and dismissed from both infirmary and hospital; that she was at Leeds for some time, and sent to the House of Correction at York, with a good character, and taken into Mr. Garthorpe's service, remaining in some time, and proving himself a most excellent servant. On leaving it, she was at York entrapped and engaged by a woman who kept an improper house, but no sooner discovered this than she determined to make her escape; the woman refusing to let her go, and keeping her in the house by force. The poor girl watched her opportunity, dressed herself in the best clothes she could lay her hand upon, got out through a window and made the best of her way to Liverpool, to which she was traced by a police officer and taken back to York, and tried by the Recorder, Mr. Elsly, who was about to pass sentence of transportation for seven years upon her, when, in her defence, she detailed the whole story; and persons being present

who could confirm it, her sentence was commuted to confinement for a short period in the House of Correction. She was taken by Mr. Garthorpe again into his service, but not liking her confinement she attempted to escape, fell from a ladder and injured her spine. She then gradually became unable to work, entered the York Infirmary, and after remaining there unrelieved for a length of time, and finally pronounced incurable there and at the hospital, she went to some friend at Liverpool. All this information was given by Mr. Garthorpe himself, who declares she was a most excellent servant, and that he is ready to give her a character to that effect.—*Zoist*.

### MESMERISM NOT TO BE TRIFLED WITH, THOUGH IT KILLS NOBODY; OR, JAMES COOK ALIVE AND HEARTY.

[By M. W. G. Smith. Communicated by Dr. Elliottson.]

DR. ELLIOTSON forwards to The *Zoist* an authentic account which he has received of a lad unexpectedly sent to sleep with mesmerism two or three years ago, at Deptford, and whom the *Times* and other papers represented as incapable of being awakened; so that thousands now believe he never woke, and positively died, and many thousands fear mesmerism, lest the party mesmerized should never wake again, whereas every person who goes into the sleep wakes sooner or later spontaneously.

Conduit Street, March 10.

2, Deptford Bridge, }  
February, 1847. }

My dear Sir,

In an interview I had some time since with Mr. Chandler, of Rotherhithe, he gave me to understand that various unpleasant and ill-founded reports were in circulation, tending very much to retard the progress of mesmerism and produce a feeling of terror of it in those who would otherwise avail themselves of that great therapeutic agent. These reports are, "that the lad, James Cook, mesmerized by me, is now dead, and had died in consequence of his being mesmerized." I beg most positively to deny this statement, and thus publicly to declare that he is alive and well, has grown up a fine young man, and was never in better health than at the present time.

It is true that his sleep was of a prolonged character, and so excited public attention that the police deemed it necessary to inves-

tigate the case. I was therefore visited at 2 a.m. by a special commission of that enlightened body (grave fellows, by the way, to report on a case of mesmerism), consisting of an inspector, sergeant, and private of the force, who, like Dogberry of old, showed their profound wisdom in their mode of examination, by summing up the evidence, and promising all parties a lodging in the station-house. Not being thoroughly satisfied whether they were acting right or wrong, a messenger was dispatched for the police surgeon. Myself and Mr. Taylor, awaiting his return, sat in suspense, the sable pall of night being for a time illumined with the presence of these worthy functionaries. ("We felt inclined to suspect their places, and in good faith to write them down—"). We reasoned for a time upon the imprudence of such a step, but "they knew the law" (they were good and true subjects). The worthy *Æsculapius* came. He very blandly and candidly assured us he was quite ignorant of the ills or benefits of mesmerism. After feeling the pulse, gravely shaking his head, &c. &c., he said he should advise the inspector to leave the case in our hands, for should anything serious happen we could easily be found. We were pleased enough to hear that decision, for the inspector's impressions a few minutes previous led us to expect something worse; and well for all persons it happened so, as the consequences of a separation from the patient at such a time would, no doubt, have been attended with serious results; and I take this opportunity of publicly thanking Mr. Downing, the police surgeon of Greenwich, for his favorable decision, and saving me from the ordeal of an examination before a magistrate.

It may be well here to narrate some few particulars in reference to this case, trusting it may serve as a warning to those who would tamper\* with this agency, especially the timid and inexperienced, who have no idea of the many inconveniences in which the young experimentalist is placed, when he loses that great essential to a mesmerist—confidence, or of the care invariably requisite to prevent another person from coming in contact with his patient.

Having attended an experimental lecture in Greenwich, by a Mr. Taylor, and witnessed a young lady (the daughter of a much esteemed minister), mesmerized, after being casually selected from the audience, at the first sitting, in ten minutes, and some of the higher order of phenomena produced in her, I naturally experienced a desire to know something more. During the subsequent

week I read one or two cases, and I asked myself, why, if those effects were real, I should not produce them as well as other persons? my curiosity awakened, impulse pointed to me a patient. I then called James Cook, a lad in my father's employment, asked him to stand before me quite still, and look me in the face. He complied with my request; I placed him with his back against an iron steam pipe, which was affixed to some brickwork; I passed my hands in the way I had seen Mr. Taylor, and after making the downward passes for two or three minutes, his eyes closed, his breathing became accelerated, he lost all consciousness, and would have fallen had I not caught him in my arms.

This very much alarmed me, and I called to a young man (one of my father's workmen) to hold the lad while I procured a seat. No sooner had the man touched him than he went into a state of complete frenzy: he rose, threw his arms in all directions, strided along the workshop, and, in a few minutes, became quite furious and dangerous to approach; he opened his eyes and stared wildly, uttering incoherent sentences, and fancied he was pursued by some demon, saying, "That he had run him through with his sword, and had him under the draw-bridge by the castle,"\* and at length sank on the ground exhausted.

At this time I became terrified. My feelings it would be vain to attempt to describe. So completely was I overpowered that I allowed the boy to do as he pleased for some time without making any effort to restrain him, having so completely lost my power over him.

It occurred to me that a second lecture on mesmerism was to be given that evening in Greenwich, by Mr. Taylor, and to him I dispatched the young man who had innocently done the mischief, desiring him, under no pretence whatever, to return without Mr. Taylor. The interval was to me dreadful. Imagine, Sir, yourself alone with a maniac, and you have a description of my position for nearly two hours. At some times during this interval he would narrate, with remarkable accuracy, any event that had taken place in his life, or passages of tales he had read; he was performing mental journeys with the rapidity of thought, accurately describing places, as if he were present, that he had never before seen.

Mr. Taylor, upon hearing the facts of the case, with a generosity and kindness I can never forget, resolved to attend immediately. He only stayed to explain to an audience of 150 persons his reasons for absenting him-

\* Medical men are the most fit to practise it IF they would.

\* He was rather fond of reading tales of chivalry, which would account for his using such language.

self so abruptly. They, naturally thinking he was playing them a hoax, questioned him, and were clamorous till they heard the name. As soon as the name was mentioned, a great part of the audience who knew me accompanied Mr. Taylor and beset the house. I allowed them to enter, and numbers who an hour before were sceptics, departed convinced. They communicated to their friends what they had seen, who doubting everything unless it was corroborated by the evidence of their own senses, begged, as a favor, to be admitted also. Thus, on the first evening (though my inclination was to keep the affair secret), a chain of circumstances, over which I had no control, caused the reports to circulate, which produced an excitement and interest in the public mind almost unparalleled by any other case.

When Mr. Taylor arrived, the boy was on a mental journey to the Temperance Hall, looking for Mr. Taylor, and watching the young man's actions, and accurately described the place and persons there. I will affirm, previous to that time, he had neither seen the place nor the lecturer. The numerous persons continually pouring into the workshop, he did not notice. Having mentally travelled home, he cast his eyes about the workshop, and pointing to Mr. Taylor from among a group of persons, said, "That is the gentleman Walton (the young man who had handled Cook) was talking to at the Hall." It was impossible he could have heard who was Mr. Taylor, for among all the persons who were continually arriving, there was not a word spoken, except by myself and the boy. We adopted many means of awakening him, but in vain: on our questioning the boy on his own condition, he said, "If I do not wake in twenty minutes, you must take me to bed, and, if I am not awake in the morning, you must send for this gentleman." Precisely on the expiration of twenty minutes, he seized my hand and dragged me away as quickly as he could through a dark room, avoiding any obstacle in the way, and threw himself on the bed. Some of the most striking of his clairvoyant powers showed themselves during the night; and several severe and satisfactory tests were applied, convincing to all who applied them.

After a long, long, and wearying night, the morning came at last; but with it no hope, no improvement: his eyes remained hermetically sealed: he rose, washed himself, and ate his breakfast, and could observe the most minute object with as great accuracy as if he were in his normal condition. The whole of Friday passed in unsuccessful attempts to restore him. Towards the latter part of the day he opened

his eyes; but to me his aspect was more distressing than before: his looks excited pity in all who saw him. The great excitement caused in the town induced hundreds of persons to visit him, by which, from a desire on my part that all by seeing him should be convinced, I was little aware I was retarding his recovery.

Nothing particular occurred that day: but at night I was honored with a visit from the police, as I previously narrated. When morning arrived, the lad was conscious of all that had taken place, and added that had they taken us away he would have followed wherever I went: for separation from me would have injured him.

Throughout the whole of Saturday numerous persons visited the case, including several medical men, also a Mr. D. Hope, now keeping a small chemist and druggist's shop on Deptford Bridge, but then a medical student on board the Dreadnought Hospital Ship, all of whom declared the boy to be in a very extraordinary state. In their experience they had never seen such a case before. Mr. Hope also to test whether the boy was insensible to pain, slyly ran a needle into his foot, and declared before a company of respectable inhabitants in a neighboring town he was in the habit of visiting, that there was not the slightest manifestation of pain, and from his conversation led every one to believe in the reality of the mesmeric trance. This Mr. Hope was not only exceedingly interested in the lad, but did all he could to persuade him to take a powder he had prepared, as there had been no natural relief from Thursday morning till Sunday morning. But the boy resolutely persisted that "medicine would do him no good." How true must have been the boy's prevision, as was subsequently shown by the written communication you so kindly forwarded to me, and which in my then critical situation, although I had a firm belief in the boy's ultimate recovery, burst through the dark clouds of despondency, diffused a bright ray of hope, and cheered me in the severest moments of trial through which I had afterwards to struggle. At this crisis your kind advice raised my drooping spirits, imparted fresh vigor to my exertions, and nerved me to the task I had before me.

Several persons determined, should anything serious have occurred, to have raised a subscription to prosecute me. Mr. Hope afterwards wrote an untrue and impudent letter in the Times, and refused to repeat his charges of deception before a meeting of medical gentlemen that was convened; the chairman of that meeting, Mr. Atkins, surgeon, affirming "that there was neither delusion nor collusion in the case."

On Saturday afternoon, my situation and that of my patient, became to myself and all concerned, very alarming. About this time, sir, my mother called on you, when you, in the most gentlemanly and liberal manner, gave your valuable advice, which led to the boy's restoration, by our complying with your injunctions, much earlier than could otherwise have been done. You will recollect, sir, you requested no one should touch the patient but the mesmerizer; that he should also have whatever he desired, provided it appeared not decidedly improper: but to give him no medicine unless he prescribed it himself, as he would be his own physician. These injunctions were strictly adhered to, and after the crisis, which appeared about 10. 30 P.M., a gradual improvement took place, and on Sunday, 6 P.M. (as the boy had predicted), he returned to his normal condition, though he labored under extreme nervous debility for two or three days afterwards, and it required great care to subdue any returning paroxysm.

During the trance, he could relate with astonishing accuracy all the minutiae of the coming pains and paroxysms, the date to the very minute, and the nature of the pain and the means to remove it; water was his sovereign remedy, external and internal, with mesmerism, to his ultimate recovery. All his statements were verified to the letter in the presence repeatedly of a numerous circle of friends, who stood by me during my trials, and prevented that depression of spirits which might possibly have occurred had I been thoroughly deserted. Some of those gentlemen had the pleasure of meeting you at one of your mesmeric demonstrations some short time afterwards, who could testify to the genuineness of the statements I now advance, and whose names, a delicacy on their parts prevents me from publishing.

But to return to Mr. D. Hope, for I cannot allow such conduct to pass unnoticed, reflecting as it does on the characters of all persons concerned. Mr. D. Hope's letter was inserted in the Times, and all his assertions stereotyped in every brain as facts. But how was it they were never contradicted? They were replied to and flatly denied by me in an answer I wrote. Not only the editor of that public journal but the editor of the Examiner treated my communications in the most contemptuous manner—never noticed them; they published untruth, and denied me an opportunity of replying. So much for the liberty of the press.

Thus I have furnished you with a brief statement of facts that occurred in connexion with this extraordinary case; as I have given them from memory, I have omitted a considerable

portion; for from the excited state of my feelings at the time, and want of rest, not having slept throughout the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, a period of 88 hours, I was unable to take notes. The lad required my undivided attention, nor could I attempt to use a pen in his presence, for his curiosity to know what I wrote was intense, and if unsatisfied would have produced immediate paroxysms, and yet I dared not read anything about his own case to him. Some accounts reached the newspapers greatly exaggerating the leading features of the case: many were correct, but no authentic statement has before been published.

I do trust this letter will remove the impression from the minds of all who have hitherto been misled as to the effects produced on the "boy Cook of Deptford," and make it generally known that mesmerism, instead of injuring him, has, when subsequently properly applied, contributed very largely to restore to health a previously weak and ailing constitution.\* I have mesmerized a great deal since in accordance with his own wish, as he continually was saying during his trance that he must be mesmerized a great deal before he "got quite well."

Thanking you sincerely for the interest you have taken in this case, and the courteous and kind manner in which you have always received me and imparted so cheerfully any information I have required,

I remain, my dear Sir,

With respect and gratitude,

Yours, very sincerely,

WM. G. SMITH.

To Dr. ELLIOTSON.

## CURE OF DEAFNESS AND DUMBNESS OF ABOVE NINE YEARS' STANDING.

(By M. La Fontaine.)

To the Editor of the *Zoist*

SIR,—Having received from my friend, Dr. Burnett, the accompanying letter by M. La Fontaine, and believing that the facts therein stated are of great importance, I forward it to you in the hope that it may be inserted in the next number of your journal.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant.

JOHN ASHBURNER.

13 North Audley street, }  
6th Nov., 1846. }

\* He is a surviving twin—the last child, and has a sister subject to fits. The father and mother and nearly all the family are of highly nervous temperaments.

Bagnères de Bigorre, }  
 Aug. 30, 1846. }

Sir,—Your letter of July 19 arrived but yesterday; I lose no time in complying with your request.

Miss Georgiana Burton, 11 years old, became deaf and dumb at nine months, after convulsions. She had also a paralysis of the face, which was so drawn that the left corner of her mouth almost touched her eye. She heard only when her left ear was shouted into, and then could not distinguish sounds.

Drs. Donellan and Mesnier proposed an operation in the throat; but did not promise success.

On the 29th of January, 1843, her family brought her to me. Having ascertained that her case was what I have mentioned, I determined to mesmerize her without sending her to sleep.

In an hour there was some effect on her sensibility, and afterwards she heard and endeavored to repeat all the vocal sounds.

I continued to mesmerize her every other day for three months. At the end of this period, her deafness was completely removed; as were also the palsy and contraction of her features; and by the 1st of May she was really a pretty child.

During the three months of treatment, her sisters taught her to read, write, and reckon, and to speak. But for an individual to learn to speak who has been deaf and dumb, and who has been made to understand in any way, requires much time and patience. A child is a year old before it is taught to say papa, &c.

The last time I saw her was in June, 1844. Her hearing continued: she did not yet speak well. Her face was natural, except when she smiled, and then a little contraction appeared.

I trust, sir, that this account will be satisfactory to you. If you desire further information, I shall be in Paris about the 19th of September, and at your service.

I have the honor to remain, &c.,

CH. LA FONTAINE.

64, Rue Neuve des Mathurins, Paris.

# INSTANCES OF CLAIRVOYANCE AND DOUBLE CONSCIOUSNESS INDEPENDENT OF MESMERISM, IN A FATHER AND HIS GROWN-UP CHILDREN.

By one of the parties; in a letter to Mr. Clark, Surgeon, of York Place, Kingsland Road.

July 11th, 1846.

SIR,—The present very interesting number

of the *Zoist*\* you have so kindly lent me for perusal has brought to my recollection cases of double consciousness in my own family.\*

In the years 1841–2, my dear respected father was frequently attacked with mental derangement, originating greatly I believe from the knowledge of the unfortunate circumstances in which I, his beloved daughter, was placed, owing to the sudden death of my husband.

The various scenes of mental delusion I was called to witness, are not uncommon to gentlemen of your profession. I therefore pass them over simply to relate his strange knowledge of events.

When he was first attacked, I went to see him, but it was only at times that he recognised me.

My attention was first excited by the following incident. So soon as the meat for dinner was brought from the butcher's, of which he could have no possible knowledge, being confined to his bed and out of the reach of either seeing or hearing, he exclaimed (pointing to the floor underneath which was the room it was in), "What a nice rump-steak, I will have some." Struck with his manner, and also knowing that it was not our intended dinner, I replied, "No, father, there is no rump-steak; we are going to have mutton chops;" he went into a great passion, declared that there was rump-steak, that he could see it, and described the dish. I went down stairs, and to my utter astonishment beheld it as he related.

In the morning, without making known my intention, I took a basket and went into the garden to cut some cabbages and gather strawberries. The garden being at the side of the house, where there was no window to look into it, it was impossible for him to see me by ordinary vision. However, he turned to my sister, saying, "That basket into which Betsey is putting the cabbages and strawberries, had better be moved out of the sun, or the fruit will be spoiled; tell her she is not gathering strawberries from the best bed; she had better go to the other." When I was told of it, I was completely puzzled. During the time of my visit, wherever I went, whatever I did or thought of, was open to his view. My sister afterwards informed me that his medical attendant lent her some books for her perusal; one morning my father said to her, "The Doctor sends his respects, and will be obliged for the books." Supposing some message had been sent, my sister replied, "Very well." In the course of a short time after, the Doctor's boy ar-

\* This (the 14th) number contained some wonderful instances of double consciousness without mesmerism. —*Zoist*.



rived with his master's respects, and request for the books. On inquiry, she found no previous message had been sent, nor inquiry made for them. We have both come to the conclusion that he must mentally have travelled to the Doctor's, and heard the message: I should think the distance three quarters of a mile.

Another time he said to my sister, "There is a handsome young man and an old woman coming by the coach this afternoon, to see me." Sure enough, to her surprise, when the coach arrived, it brought my brother, and a nurse for my father. No one had any knowledge of my brother's coming, or of his bringing a nurse with him. The distance from whence they came was eleven miles. I wish to call your attention to the circumstance, that here he did not recognise the parties, though both well known to him; calling my brother a young man and the nurse an old woman, instead of mentioning their names.

When in his senses he knew nothing of what had transpired, and had no recollection of my coming to see him. He wasted away to a skeleton, and died, mid-summer, 1842, in the 64th year of his age. He never, until the time stated, had any mental derangement, though he certainly was for years very nervous. At that time I knew nothing of phrenology, so cannot give his development. I know he was a talented and very active man, a kind and affectionate father.

My second case is that of my eldest sister, though in priority of time before my father's, yet not so interesting. She was in a bad state of health some years, I suppose what might be called nervous. The circumstance I am about to relate occurred during a severe illness, in which mental derangement took place. At one time she would take no food, at another eat most voraciously. One day we had ribs of beef for dinner. How it came to her knowledge I could never ascertain, but so it did, and she insisted to have some for her dinner. I gave her some, she wanted more. Fearing to make her worse, I would not give it her: she declared she would have it, but soon after went to sleep. I went quietly down stairs, took the meat out of the kitchen, carried it down through the beer cellar into the wine cellar, covered it over with a tub, put a weight on it, went up and found her just as I left her. During the night, through fatigue, I fell asleep, and was awakened by her calling to me. What was my astonishment when I beheld her sitting in bed with a slice of this beef cut the whole length of the ribs, devouring it like a savage. I asked her how she obtained it, and she positively declared that she fetched it herself while I slept; that while lying in bed she

saw me go down, take the meat, and she described every particular. I believe she never left her bed when I hid it; and had she, there were three doors which I closed after me, and I must have seen her. When she recovered, she knew nothing about it, but on a relapse told me all the circumstances again, laughing heartily at the trick she had played me.

In 1833 she died of the cholera.

My next circumstance is different, not occurring under derangement; but accurately remembered to this day.

My youngest sister, when seriously ill a few years back, saw distinctly the saucepan on the fire, and the watch, and she told the time by it. She was terrified at herself, and mentions it now with a sort of terror.

I leave these cases for your consideration, wishing I had known formerly as much of mesmerism as I now do. I most certainly should have made use of its great benefits, I should more minutely have watched these singular phenomena.

To your professional friends you can make what use you please of this paper; I am willing to come forward before them at any time, but my situation prevents me having my name made public. I do not possess the firmness of an Elliotson, or I might not care about publicity: my three children hold me back; the day may come when it may not affect them, and then I should like nothing better than to declare publicly what mesmerism has done for me. I was thinking this morning what an infinite source of trouble I have been to you three years next week since you first mesmerized me. A waggon-load of vagaries you have driven out of my head, perhaps saved me from a miserable end. I think I was following in my father's steps. My extreme excitability was awful: now I have none of it: I am calm and take untoward circumstances quietly. But had I fallen into some mesmerists' hands, they would have been sick of me ere this. You have persevered, and I have gained the benefit. And what have you for it? just what your master gets (Dr. Elliotson, I mean), that is, nothing; and I have nothing to give you, but my gratitude. Accept this then, as all I have to offer. I remain, Sir,

Yours, respectfully,

.....

Mr. Clark informs us that the writer of this account has experienced the very same affections, but in a less intense degree. Her name is attached to the account, but we of course omitted it.

Mr. Clark was a student of University

College, and has for ten years fearlessly admitted the truth of mesmerism, practised it, and advocated it, and would at this moment fearlessly cure by its means, were he allowed, some remarkable cases in Shoreditch Workhouse, of which he is surgeon. But he is forbidden by the philosophical authorities, and nothing is done for the poor sufferers. We fear the Poor Law Commissioners are not without fault in this.—*Zeist*.

### MAGENDIE'S EXPERIMENTS ON THE CEREBRO-SPINAL FLUID.

THE following observations from Mr. Paget's Report of the Progress of Physiology, show on what uncertain data opinions are sometimes formed. They illustrate the necessity of taking all facts into account, before any positive conclusion as to cause and effect—

“M. Longet has found that the peculiar, unsteady, tottering movements, like those of drunkenness, which M. Magendie ascribed to the removal of the subarachnoid fluid of the spinal cord, are really due to the division of the muscles of the occipito-atlantal region, which is made to form a passage, through which the fluid may be drawn off. Whenever M. Longet drew off the fluid, without injuring these muscles, the animal preserved the power of motion unimpaired; but when he divided the posterior sub-occipital muscles (including always the recti capitis postici minores, and the supra-spinous ligament in the animals in which it exists), the peculiar defects of motion were produced, although the cerebro-spinal fluid was left untouched, and the sheath of the cord unopened. He ascribes the impairment of motion in these cases to the falling of the head, when its attachments to the atlas are destroyed, and the consequent dragging and pressure of the upper part of the cord, and especially of the medulla oblongata and pons; for the effects of the division of the muscles and other tissues are completely prevented, by artificially supporting the animal's head in a raised position; and in different animals, the degree in which the movements are impaired is directly proportionate to the amount of separation which takes place between the occiput and atlas, when their connexions (the occipito-atlantal ligament excepted) are divided. The speedy recovery of the animal, which Magendie ascribed to the rapid reproduction of the fluid, M. Longet considers to be due to the readiness with which the nervous masses (especially in animals) adapt themselves to

new and unnatural pressure. He observed a striking analogy between the effects of the division of these muscles, and those observed by M. Flourens and himself, in consequence of injuries of the cerebellum; and hence draws another evidence, that the former are due to the pressure and dragging of the medulla and pons, with which the crura of the cerebellum are connected.”—*Lancet*.

### OBSERVATIONS ON THE INHALATION OF ETHER.

[By Richard Chambers, M.D., Physician to the Essex and Colchester Hospital.]

Colchester, }  
April, 1847. }

A PERIOD of four months has elapsed since the inhalation of ether as a means of producing insensibility to pain, was brought under the notice of the profession in this country; and notwithstanding the repeated trials it has had, no decided opinion has yet been arrived at, as to its value as a therapeutical agent. Contrary to what generally obtains, in estimating the value of scientific discoveries, the occurrence of a few adverse cases has sufficed to counterbalance the favorable opinion which the safe result in innumerable instances ought naturally to have produced. But admitting that there have been some adverse cases, may not the result be dependent as much upon the mal-administration of the remedy as on any inherent noxious properties it may possess? Doubtless, ether is like a two-edged sword, but not more so than several other remedies in daily use.

As one of the few fatal cases that we are aware of occurred under my own observation in the Essex and Colchester Hospital, and as I am of opinion that it ought never to have been adverted to, to throw discredit upon the use of this important remedy, I feel it a duty I owe to the profession (before whom it has been so prominently brought), to state my opinion on the subject.

I refer my readers to the several medical journals of the last month for the particulars of the case, which have been so lucidly detailed by my colleague, Mr. Nunn; I may, however, be permitted to add, that the operation was well and ably performed.

After having inhaled the ether for eight minutes, the patient became fully under its influence, even to the extent of stertorous breathing, and the face and lips presented a livid hue; the nose-spring was then for a moment removed, but it was gently re-applied, and the stertorous breathing kept up. From the first inhalation to the commencement of

the operation, occupied a period of ten minutes, and the completion of the operation ten minutes more. During the first half (five minutes) of the period occupied by the operation, the patient was kept under the full influence of the ether, but during the remaining five minutes its use was somewhat relaxed. On the whole, then, we may say that the ether had been used for twenty minutes. The patient gradually became restored to consciousness, but at first he replied to questions, evidently without comprehending their meaning or his replies.

The operation was performed a little after two o'clock on Friday, and from that time till about the same hour on the following day, the patient continued in a quiet, passive state; but about this time, twenty-four hours after the operation, he was seized with a severe chill, upon which the very intelligent house-surgeon, Mr. Taylor, gave him two ounces of brandy diluted with water. He continued after this in a quiet dozing state, when he was visited by Mr. Nunn, who deemed it necessary, in consequence of the extreme prostration, to direct the free exhibition of stimulants. A consultation of the hospital staff was also requested for the next morning, at which we all met, about forty-four hours after the operation. It only remained for us to add our approval to, and recommend a continuance of, the treatment which was being pursued. The patient, notwithstanding, continued to sink, and died at five o'clock the same afternoon: I happened to be in the ward at the time. A post-mortem examination was made in sixty-seven hours after death. I transcribe from the published account the appearances observed:—

“Membranous congestion of the brain, but no effusion; brain firm; lungs permeable throughout—anteriorly exsanguineous, posteriorly engorged; heart flaccid, of a natural size, and nearly empty; left kidney pale, the right slightly congested; the bladder and the adjoining parts presented the usual aspects after an operation.”

I witnessed the examination of the brain and lungs; but having been called away, I did not see that of the other viscera, which, I doubt not, has been accurately described.

To the foregoing account of the examination, I wish to add, that the substance of the brain was paler than natural, indeed I might even say blanched.

Considerable stress has been laid upon the congested appearance of the membranes of the brain, and the engorgement of the posterior parts of the lungs. But when I consider the total absence, during the last hours of life, of any dyspnoea, or other symptom indicative of cerebral congestion, I am compelled (which I do readily) to conclude that conges-

tion of either organ had nothing whatever to do with causing the fatal result. A heart so feeble that its sounds were only distinctly audible through the stethoscope, could not, and did not, propel much blood to the brain, and as a consequence of the imperfect flow of blood from the heart, the return of blood through the veins must naturally have been retarded; in addition to which, we must make considerable allowance for the influence exercised by post-mortem gravitation, aided by the fluidity of the blood, in producing the appearances revealed by the examination. And to the same causes do I solely attribute the pulmonary appearances. Indeed, the appearances were such as the symptoms during life would have led one to expect.

I must allude to some other circumstances in the case that may have exercised an injurious influence upon it. The man was of a spare and timid habit, and of indifferent constitutional powers, subadded to which, he had (not known till afterwards, and at all times a dangerous prognostic) a presentiment of death; nor must I omit to state, that some small vessels which were divided in the operation, bled rather freely—I should say to the extent of a pint. This, though not in itself of consequence, may, with the other circumstances, have interfered with reaction; and although I am inclined to attribute the death to the secondary depressing action of the ether, aided by the causes just mentioned, I contend that, on the closest examination of the case, there is nothing to be found in it that ought to militate against the proper use of the remedy. The same reasoning that would be applied to forbid the therapeutical use of ether, in consequence of the fatal result in this case, would likewise be applied to forbid the therapeutical use of opium, prussic acid, or any other powerful remedy which should happen to cause death, when given in an over quantity.

The fluidity of the blood which existed, may properly be attributed to the ether; not to any direct specific action exercised upon the blood, but indirectly by interfering with its supply of nervous influence. But nevertheless it does not follow that a moderate use of ether would produce a like effect.

The peculiarities observed in the action of ether when inhaled, depend, I think, upon the readiness with which it enters the circulation through the medium of the lungs, and the smallness of the quantity requisite to produce its effects, rendering the latter of only a temporary character. Upon the latter point its safety depends.

The effects of ether are exhibited upon the cerebral, spinal, and ganglionic systems; through the cerebral system, by inducing insensibility; through the spinal system, by

causing stertor, and in some cases strong convulsive action; and through the ganglionic, by depressing the heart's action. Its primary action is unquestionably stimulant; its secondary action depressing and narcotic; but the preponderance of ether is so much influenced by accidental or constitutional peculiarities, that it is not possible, *a priori*, to anticipate which may preponderate. Its employment is contra-indicated in individuals of full habit, or where there exists any tendency to cerebral or cardiac diseases. Its effects are but feebly exhibited upon the habitual drunkard, tending, I think, to prove that the action of ether is allied to that of ordinary alcoholic drinks, the difference depending upon the different modes by which admission is obtained into the circulation.

After insensibility occurs, the utmost caution ought to be observed, should it be necessary to keep the patient for any time under the continued influence of the remedy; because the insensibility is an evidence of a certain amount of cerebral congestion; and after this every portion that is inhaled favors the production of spinal or ganglionic symptoms, the result of which we can neither anticipate nor control.

In consequence of having read Mr. Nunn's account of the case, a writer (Mr. Beckingsale) in several of the journals condemned the stimulating treatment that had been adopted, and recommended the abstraction of blood. I think that, without injury to his modesty, he may have assumed that those in attendance were the most competent to decide upon the adoption of the most proper treatment. I allude to the matter more particularly, because it appears to me that his advice was carried out by the accidental hemorrhage already alluded to, and from which I am quite sure that no benefit was derived.

Although there is a certain amount of congestion produced, it is so evanescent as not to call for a remedy (*sublata causa tollitur effectus*); for I consider that we are not justified in employing the remedy in individuals likely to suffer an amount of congestion that would demand, nor ought we in any case to carry the inhalation to the extent of justifying the adoption of blood-letting. From what I have seen of the subject, I would recommend the early adoption of stimulants, should not a proper amount of reaction set in; for my observation in cases of ague leads me to look upon venous congestion as an antecedent to a chill; and as I have already mentioned, I view the venous congestion here as a sequence to the depressed action of the heart.

I feel assured that the writer of the letter before alluded to, will be the first to regret its publication: but before dismissing the sub-

ject, I must protest, in the name of common sense, against an individual attempting to instruct others upon a subject, of which he confesses to have seen nothing, and (as it really would appear) knows less. Several other suggestions have been put forward with a degree of confidence they little deserve; indeed, some of them are of a character to induce me to believe that they were written under a forgetfulness that the fundamental principle of our profession is, **TO SAVE LIFE.**—*Lancet*.

## MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION AT OXFORD.

SIR R. H. INGLIS took the chair; and after a brief introduction, delivered the following address—

### THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.—EXTRACTS.

I begin with ASTRONOMY.—The progress of astronomy during the past year has been distinguished by a discovery the most remarkable, perhaps, ever made as the result of pure intellect exercised *before* observation,—and determining *without* observation the existence and force of a planet; which existence and which force were subsequently verified *by* observation. It had previously been considered as the great trial and triumph of Dynamical Science to determine the disturbances caused by the mutual action of "the stars in their courses," even when their position and their orbits were fully known; but it has been reserved for these days to reverse the process, and to investigate from the discordance actually observed the existence and the place of the wondrous stranger which had been silently, since its creation, exerting this mysterious power. It has been reserved for these days to track the path and to measure the force which the great Creator had given to this hitherto unknown orb among the myriads of the air.

I will not presume to measure the claims of the two illustrious names of Leverrier and Adams: of him, who, in midnight workings and watchings, discovered the truth in our own country, and of the hardly happier philosopher who was permitted and enabled to be the first, after equal workings and watchings, to proclaim the great reality which his science had prepared and assured him to expect. I will trust myself with only two observations: the one my earnest hope that the rivalry not merely of the illustrious Leverrier and of my illustrious countryman Adams, but of the two great nations which they represent, France and England, respectively, may

always be confined to pursuits in which victory is without woe, and to studies which enlarge and elevate the mind, and which, if rightly directed, may produce alike glory to God and good to mankind: and the other, my equal hope, that for those (some of whom I trust may now hear me) who employ the same scientific training and the same laborious industry which marked the researches of Leverrier and Adams, there may still remain similar triumphs in the yet unpenetrated regions of space; and that—unlike the greater son of a great father—they may not have to mourn that there are no more worlds to be conquered.

It is a remarkable fact that the seeing of the planet Neptune was effected as suddenly at Berlin by means of one of the star-maps, which has proceeded from an association of astronomers, chiefly Germans; such maps forming in themselves a sufficient illustration of the value of such Associations as our own, by which the labor and the expense—too great, perhaps, for any individual—are supplied by the combined exertions of many kindred followers of science.

It is another result of the circulation of these star-maps, that a new visitor, a comet, can hardly be within the range of a telescope for a few hours without his presence being discovered and announced through Europe. Those comets which have been of larger apparent dimensions, or which have continued longer within view, have, in consequence, for more than 2,000 years been observed with more or less accuracy; their orbits have been calculated; and the return of some has been determined with a precision which in past ages excited the wonder of nations;—but now, improved maps of the heavens, and improved instruments by which the strangers who pass along those heavens are observed, carry knowledge where conjecture lately dared not to penetrate. It is not that more comets exist, as has sometimes been said, but more are observed.

An Englishman—a subject of this United Kingdom—cannot refer to the enlarged means of astronomical observation enjoyed by the present age, without some allusion to the noble Earl, Lord Rosse, one of the Vice Presidents of this day, who, himself educated amongst us here, in Oxford, has devoted large means and untiring labors to the completion of the most wonderful telescope which Science, Art, and wealth have ever yet combined to perfect; and which the Dean of Ely—a man worthy to praise the work—pronounced to be a rare combination of mechanical, chemical, and mathematical skill and knowledge. Its actual operations have been suspended by a cause not less honorable to Lord Rosse in another character than the

conception and early progress of his great instrument were to him as a man of science. They have been retarded, so far as he himself is concerned, by the more immediate and, I will say, higher duties which, as a magistrate, as a land-owner, and as a Christian gentleman, he owed, and has been paying, to his neighbors, his tenantry, and his country, during the late awful visitation which has afflicted Ireland. Yet perhaps my noble friend will permit me to say, that while we not only do not blame him—we even praise him cordially for having devoted his time, his mind, and his wealth to those claims which could not be postponed, since they affected the lives of those who, in God's providence, surrounded him—there were, and there are, others,—two, at least, in his own country, and one his most illustrious friend, Dr. Robinson (but I speak without any communication on the subject from that great observer and greater philosopher),—who might have carried on the series of observations which this wonderful telescope alone can effect, and might thus have secured for his own division of the empire the discovery of the planet Neptune.

The doctrine of the influence of the moon and of the sun on the tides was no sooner established, than it became eminently probable that an influence exerted so strongly upon a fluid so heavy as water, could not but have the lighter and all but imponderable fluid of air under its grasp. I speak not of the influence attributed to the moon in the popular language and belief of nations, ancient and modern,—of Western Europe and of Central Asia, in respect to disease; but of the direct and measurable influence of the moon and of the sun in respect to the air. It is now clear, as the result of the observations at St. Helena by my friend Col. Sabine, that, as on the waters, so on the atmosphere, there is a corresponding influence exerted by the same causes. There are tides in the air as in the sea; the extent is of course determinable only by the most careful observations with the most delicate instruments; since the minuteness of the effect, both in itself and in comparison with the disturbances which are occasioned in the equilibrium of the atmosphere from other causes, must always present great difficulty in the way of ascertaining the truth—and had, in fact, till Col. Sabine's researches, prevented any decisive testimony of the fact being obtained by direct observation. But the hourly observations of the barometer, made for some years past at the Meteorological and Magnetical Observatory at St. Helena, have now placed beyond a doubt the existence of a lunar atmospheric tide. It appears that in each day the barometer at St. Helena stands, on an average, four thousandths of an inch higher at the two periods when the

moon is on the meridian above or below the pole, than when she is six hours distant from the meridian on either side; the progression between this maximum and minimum being moreover continuous and uninterrupted:—thus furnishing a new element in the attainment of physical truth; and, to quote the expression of a distinguished foreigner now present, which he uttered in my own house, when the subject was mentioned, “We are thus making astronomical observations with the barometer”—that is, we are reasoning from the position of the mercury, in a barometer, which we can touch, as to the position of the heavenly bodies which, unseen by us, are influencing its visible fall and rise. “It is no exaggeration to say,”—and here I use the words of my friend, the Rev. Dr. Robinson,—“that we could even, if our satellite were incapable of reflecting light, have determined its existence, nay, more, have approximated to its eccentricity and period.”

The extensive and diversified field of physiology presents so many objects of nearly equal interest, as to make it difficult, in a rapid sketch like the present,—and above all for one like me,—to select those which may least unworthily occupy the attention of the Association.

In Physiology, the most remarkable of the discoveries, or rather improvements of previous discoveries, which the past year has seen, is perhaps that connected with the labors of the distinguished Tuscan philosopher, Matteucci; who, on several former occasions, has co-operated with this Association in the sections devoted to the advancement of the physical and physiological sciences. I refer, in this instance, to his experiments on the generation of electric currents by muscular contraction in the living body. The subject he has continued to pursue; and, by the happy combination of the rigorous methods of physical experiment with the ordinary course of physiological research, Prof. Matteucci has fully established the important fact of the existence of an electrical current—feeble, indeed, and such as could only be made manifest by his own delicate galvanoscope—between the deep and superficial parts of a muscle. Such electric currents pervade every muscle in every species of animal which has been the subject of experiment; and may, therefore, be inferred to be a general phenomenon of living bodies. Even after life has been extinguished by violence, these currents continue for a short time; but they cease more speedily in the muscles of the warm-blooded than in those of cold-blooded animals. The Association will find his own exposition of the action of the electric current, in his work, “*Leçons sur les Phénomènes Physiques des Corps Vivants*,” 1844.

The delicate experiments of Matteucci on the Torpedo, agree with those made by our own Faraday (whom I may call doubly our own in this place, where he is a Doctor of our University) upon the *Gymnotus electricus*, in proving that the shocks communicated by those fishes are due to electric currents generated by peculiar electric organs, which owe their most immediate and powerful stimulus to the action of the nerves.—In both species of fishes, the electricity generated by the action of their peculiar organized batteries—besides its benumbing and stunning effects on living animals,—renders the needle magnetic, decomposes chemical compounds, emits the spark, and, in short, exercises all the other known powers of the ordinary electricity developed in inorganic matter, or by the artificial apparatus of the laboratory.

ETHERIZATION, a kindred subject,—one to which deep and natural importance is now attached,—may not unfitly follow the mention of Prof. Matteucci's investigations.

It is the subject of the influence of the vapor of ether on the human frame—a discovery of the last year, and one the value of which in diminishing human pain, has been experienced in countless instances, in every variety of disease, and especially during the performance of trying and often agonizing operations. Several experiments on the tracts and nerve-roots appropriated respectively to the functions of sensation and volition, have been resumed and repeated in connexion with this new agency on the nervous system. Messrs. Flourens and Longet have shown that the sensational function at first affected, though temporarily, suspended under the operation of the vapor of ether, then the mental or cerebral powers, and finally, the motor and excito-motor forces are abrogated. It would seem that the stimulus of ether applied so largely or continuously as to produce that effect, is full of danger—and that weak constitutions are sometimes unable to rally and recover from it; but that when the influence is allowed to extend no further than to the suspension of sensation, the recovery is, as a general rule, complete. It is this remarkable property of ether which has led to its recent application with such success as may well lead us to thank God, who, in his providence, has directed the eminent physicians and surgeons amongst our brethren in the United States to make this discovery:—a discovery which will long place the name of Dr. Charles J. Jackson, its author, among the benefactors of our common nature.

At the same time, much careful observation on the *modus operandi* of this most singular agent, seems still requisite before a general, systematic, safe, and successful application of it can be established for the relief of suffering

humanity. So great, however, is the number of well-recorded instances of its having saved the patient from the pain of a surgical operation without any ill effect in reference to his subsequent recovery, as to make the subject of the influence of the vapor ether upon the nervous system, and the modification of that influence on different temperaments one eminently deserving the attention of the Physiological Section of the British Association.

### NATIONAL MEDICAL CONVENTION.

THE National Medical Convention, at Philadelphia, last week adjourned on Saturday, after a session of three days, to meet again in May, 1848, in the city of Baltimore. Previous to adjournment, the following resolution was proposed and adopted—

*“Resolved, That this Convention do now resolve itself into the ‘American Medical Association.’”*

An election was then gone into for officers for the ensuing year, when the following gentlemen were chosen—

*President*—Dr. Nathaniel Chapman, of Pennsylvania.

*Vice Presidents*—Drs. J. Knight, Connecticut; A. H. Stephens, New York; Moultrie, South Carolina; Buchanan, Tennessee.

*Secretaries*—Drs. Stille and Dunbar, Philadelphia.

*Treasurer*—Dr. J. Hays.

The discussions upon the various professional topics introduced during the session, were animated, able, and harmonious, so that the final action upon almost every question was unanimous, or nearly so. Measures were taken to secure a higher order of scholastic education as preliminary to the admission of students into our medical colleges, and the standard agreed upon is nearly equal to the requisitions for the degree of bachelor of arts in the academic department of any of our colleges. The elevation of the standard of qualifications for the doctorate was insisted upon, with recommendations of extending the lecture term in all medical colleges from four to six months, and a provision requiring the students to attend throughout the entire term, or forfeit credit for a full course; enlarging the curriculum of the college course; calling for seven years professors in each medical school; demanding that three months be required to be steadily employed in practical anatomy, and claiming clinical instruction to be included in each college course.

The large representation of the profession present from almost every part of the country,

pledged themselves to sustain these several improvements in medical education, and advise their students to attend the lectures only in such colleges as show a disposition to conform to the resolutions just adopted for elevating the standard of education.

An extended discussion took place on the proposition lately urged in various quarters, that there should be a separation of the licensing from the teaching power in medical schools, and that an independent board of examiners should be appointed in every state, by which the doctorate should be awarded, and license to practise physic and surgery exclusively conferred. The most pacific and conservative counsels prevailed even among those most zealous for reform, and this whole subject, after having been discussed in two candid and able reports of committees, was happily disposed of by reference to the appropriate standing committee, who are to deliberate thereon and submit a plan to the national society, in May next.

### CEMENT IN DENTISTRY.

[Communicated to the New York Courier & Enquirer.]

**GENTLEMEN**—Having noticed considerable discussion in your paper, as to the good and bad qualities of Cement, as a filling for decayed teeth, and having been strongly urged by a large number of patients and others, to express my opinion in relation thereto, I beg leave through the medium of your journal to say, that it has been my uniform practice,

First, to fill all teeth which could be permanently preserved with gold.

Second, to fill teeth, the nerves of which have been destroyed, and teeth greatly decayed, with tin.

Third, to fill shells of teeth, and tender teeth, which would not bear the pressure of ordinary filling, with cement. This cement is composed of pure silver filings ground for a few seconds with a little quicksilver, and immediately forced into the tooth, where in a short time it becomes as hard as a rock, and is not acted upon by the secretions of the mouth. Its action is rather sedative, as is proved by the fact that aching teeth are often relieved by the filling. I beg further to observe that, I have thus been enabled to save many hundred valuable teeth. That I do not believe it can ever exert any injurious influence. That it is rapidly coming into use among the first dentists in the country, as a valuable adjunct in their practice; and I am convinced that those who condemn its occasional use, do so either from interested mo-

tives, or from a want of knowledge or experience as to the proper method of its preparation and use.

S. SPOONER, M.D.,  
106 Liberty street, N. Y.

# MAGNETISM OF THE HUMAN SYSTEM AND MAGNETIZING MEDICINE. RESEARCHES OF BARON VON REICHENBACH ON MAGNETISM.

[From The Popular Record of Modern Science, Edinburgh.]

WE have examples of magnetized medicines in our possession in which the magnetism imparted to them has remained in them many years.

"The adhesion of a living hand to a magnet is a fact unknown in physiology as in physics, and few have seen it: it, therefore, requires explanation. Madlle. N., being in catalepsy, insensible and motionless, but free from spasms, a horse-shoe magnet of twenty pounds power was brought near to her hand, when the hand attached itself so to the magnet, that whichever way the magnet was moved, the hand followed it as if it had been a bit of iron adhering to it. She remained insensible; but the attraction was so powerful, that when the magnet was removed in the direction of the feet, further than the arm could reach, she, still insensible, raised herself in bed, and with the hand followed the magnet as far as she possibly could, so that it looked as if she had been seized by the hand, and that member dragged towards the feet. If the magnet was still further removed, she let it go unwillingly, but remained fixed in her actual position. This was daily seen by the author between six and eight, P.M., when her attacks came on, in the presence of eight or ten persons, medical and scientific men.

"At other periods of the day, when she was quite conscious, the phenomena were the same. She described the sensation as an irresistible attraction, which she felt compelled, against her will, to obey. The sensation was agreeable, accompanied with a gentle cooling aura, or stream flowing down from the magnet to the hand, which felt as if tied and drawn with a thousand fine threads to the magnet. She was not acquainted with any similar sensation in ordinary life; it was indescribable, and included an infinitely refreshing and pleasurable sensation when the magnet was not too strong."

Similar results were obtained with Made-moiselle Reichel and Madlle. Sturmann, and the statement of the various modes in which the veracity of the patients and the accuracy of the experiments were tested, is such as to inspire the most unreserved confidence in the experimenter. Mr. Baumgartner, the distinguished natural philosopher, was one of those who, amongst others, tested in a very ingenious way the above phenomena.

With regard to magnetized water, Baron Von Reichenbach, although strongly prejudiced against this "mesmeric idea," was compelled to admit that a palpable effect was produced.

"He saw daily that his patient could easily distinguish a glass of water, along which a magnet, unknown to her, had been drawn, from any others; and this without failure or hesitation. He found it impossible to oppose a fact like this by arguments; but when he saw the same result in many other patients, he ceased to struggle against that which, whether he understood it or not, was obviously a fact. He then perceived that it was more rational to admit the fact, and to wait with patience for the explanation."

The experimenter then determined to see, whether bodies besides water could be magnetized, so as to produce similar effects. He passed the magnet not only over *all sorts of minerals and drugs*, but over discriminate objects, and they all affected the patient more or less powerfully. But although all were equally magnetized, the results were different, some substances producing a strong, and others only a slight impression. It was therefore clear, that the different results must have been caused by an inherent difference of power in the various kinds of matter, and he resolved to test if this difference would manifest itself, when the substances were applied in their natural condition. To his astonishment they still acted on the patient, and with a power often little inferior to that which they had when magnetized.

"Amongst the various substances tried (of which a well-arranged list is given), *distinct solitary crystals were found to act in the strongest manner.*

"In trying the effect of drawing the point of rock crystal, 7 inches long and 1 3-4 thick, from the wrist to the points of the fingers, and back, as in magnetizing, the author found that the sensation experienced by the patient was the same as with a magnetic needle or bar, nearly five inches long, one-sixth inch broad, and one-thirtieth inch thick, weighing nearly 180 grains, and supporting about three-quarters of an ounce. The patient felt an agreeable cool aura in both cases, when the crystal or magnet was drawn from the wrist to the point of the middle finger; if drawn in the opposite direction, the sensation



was disagreeable and appeared warm. A crystal, thrice the size of the first, produced, when drawn downwards, the same effect as a magnet, supporting two pounds of iron; and when drawn the opposite way, a spasmodic condition of the whole arm, lasting several minutes, and so violent that the experiment could not well be repeated."

The most singular experiment is that with a glass of water.

"If it be grasped from below by the fingers of one hand, and from above by those of the other, during a few minutes, it has now acquired to the sensitive, the taste, smell, and all other singular and surprising properties of the so-called magnetized water. 'Against this statement,' says the author, 'all those may cry out who have never investigated the matter, and to the number of whom I formerly belonged; but of the fact, all those who have submitted to the labor of investigation, and have seen the effects I allude to, can only speak with amazement.' 'This water, which is quite identical with that treated with the magnet or with the crystal, in all its essential properties, has, therefore, received from the fingers and hand an abundant charge of the peculiar force residing in them, and retains this charge for some time, and with some force. It was found that all substances whatever were capable of receiving this charge, which the sensitive patients invariably detected. The inevitable conclusion is, that the influence residing in the human hand may be collected in other bodies, in the same way, and the same extent, as the influence residing in crystals."

[For the Dissector.]

## THE PRINCIPLES OF NATURE, HER DIVINE REVELATIONS, AND A VOICE TO MANKIND.

[By and through Andrew Jackson Davis, the "Poughkeepsie Seer" and Clairvoyant.]

It must now be confessed that we have something "new under the sun." We have "Divine Revelations" besides those which the world has been wont to distinguish by that appellation. These are "by and through Andrew Jackson Davis, the Poughkeepsie Seer and Clairvoyant." There is something very appropriate in *divine revelations* being made through the ignorant, as they were formerly made through illiterate fishermen; and the authority of those which are now "presented to the world," is partly, at least, based on the ignorance of this modern "seer." Not to waste words, we will at once confess

that the "boy" is ignorant enough, too ignorant for one of the age of 19; and that being the case, we see nothing wonderful in his revelations. Such nonsense from any person of ordinary intelligence and education, would indeed be astonishing, and we wonder what sort of minds they were who could swallow and prepare such absurdity for the press. See with what an "air of pomposity" this revelator looks down upon those who shall presume to criticise and call in question the truth of his revelations, or of what he calls the "Principles of Nature." "Man," says he, "who has now approached to some degree of knowledge, feels sustained by surrounding beings, who wonder at his indulgence."

He assumes a spirit of arrogance, and with an air of pomposity takes the stand of a foolish critic. He will laugh at the appearances which the world manifests, and assume the ground which nothing but ignorance can prompt him to maintain—daring to sneer at the great laws which govern this and other worlds, when in reality he has not the capacity to comprehend the component parts of *one atom* that goes to compose the universe!" What wonderful stupidity, indeed, in the "foolish critic," not to be able to "comprehend the component parts of *one atom*!" No wonder that he should be so ignorant as to "complain of the great laws which compose the universes." (Page 16.) Here is an intimation of a new "atomic theory," and to make it still more ridiculous, the emphasis is put on the word *atom*, and the mark of exclamation at the end of the sentence.

This A. J. Davis, or perhaps we should say, Nature through him, throws Lord Bacon with his principles of induction entirely into the shade; for he says we must proceed first from the cause to the effect, and not the reverse. We cannot find out the cause by the effects, he says, for we must know the principle before we can know the effects at all. How then shall we know *what the cause is*, so that we may know the effect? you very simply ask. Why, go to the oracle for it, of course, and take it for granted. Listen now how he talks of this mode of reasoning from cause to effect. (Page 26.) "I will here indicate the order of reasoning and investigation to be pursued. First, we are to commence at the First Cause, and trace causes to their effects, until we reach the *human body*, which is an ultimate effect of the Great Cause."

And this process will be understood by the following familiar illustration: The germ, roots, body, branches, limbs, buds, blossoms, *beauty*. Or this: Water, steam, ether, *immaterial*. Or: Fall, winter, spring, and summer in its brightness and *beauty*." This is an illustration of reasoning from

cause to effect! The germ of a tree losing itself in the *quality*, or spiritual *idea* of *beauty*—water becoming first steam, then *ether*, and then *IMMATERIAL*—fall being the cause of winter, and of all the seasons in succession—these are indeed philosophical ideas beyond the ordinary comprehension, and man could not learn them except by a revelation.

To enforce the doctrine that the cause must first be admitted, he insists upon the position that "the effect cannot be relied on while the cause is hidden," and illustrates thus, page 27: "Again: A man has a carious tooth: he tells you he experiences a severe pain; but you doubt his word and ask for proof. He points you to the tooth, which is the object tangible. But does the evidence of which your senses admit, convince you that he has a pain? The tooth is the external, the ultimate: the pain is the invisible, but reality." So it seems that the *cause*, which he calls the "invisible," the "reality," is the *pain*, and that the *effect*, which he calls the "external," and "ultimate," is the *tooth*. The pain is the cause of the tooth, and the caries is no cause or evidence of the tooth-ache at all. And yet the language has a *sound* of logic, equal to that of Dr. Johnson's famous syllogism, proving that "every cat has three tails."

Much has been said of Davis's wonderful knowledge of Anatomy, Physiology, and kindred branches, among other things, in proof of his having knowledge infused into him without having gone through the labor of study. If names and technical phrases are evidence of medical or scientific knowledge, or of acquaintance with all languages, as is claimed for him, doubtless he surpasses in these respects many learned professors, who judged by the same rule can know but very little indeed. Poor, ignorant professors—here is something in Anatomy and Physiology for their edification, page 31: "Man possesses two coatings, which are classified as *serous* and *mucous* surfaces. The *serous* covers each organ, nerve, and fascia of the muscles, including the whole of their surfaces. The *mucous* surfaces constitute the inner of every organ, nerve, and muscle." How the serous membranes can cover each "nerve and fascia of the muscles," and the mucous membranes "constitute the inner of every nerve and muscle," is difficult to comprehend; but it is Nature's "Divine revelation," and we must believe it. "The serous surfaces are susceptible of feeling, while the mucous surfaces are not"—and "the nerves of sensation terminate in the serous surfaces, while the nerves of motion terminate in the mucous surfaces"—so says A. J. Davis. How did he get his medical knowledge? It would be an imputation to say that he got it from the mind of his magnetizer, the doctor, and a still worse

imputation to say that he received it from the "Great Focus," by which he means Divinity.

But this oracle of the temple of science is also a *Psychologist*. The "*reflections*" which objects "cast upon the mind," he tells us, "*are ideas*;" and vibration of sound, he says, "undulates the portion of the mind with which it comes in contact," and "this vibration is the *idea*." The mind being "*unpressed*" by reflections, and "*undulated*" by vibrations, and the reflections and vibrations being themselves *ideas*, the mind must be *material*, and this is precisely what he would have us believe. He speaks of water becoming so evaporated as to be "*immaterial*," and this, if any, is the sort of *immateriality* which he attributes to the soul. He says plainly that "the mind" is "an ultimate of organization," page 39; and "all ultimates, to me, are still *matter*," page 47. In this he "out-Herods Herod." The doctrine of the materialist that "the mind is a function of the brain," is surpassed by the doctrine that matter is converted into mind, which is what our philosopher calls a "*metamorphosis*." When ponderable substances are so sublimated as to become invisible, this "*Poughkeepsie seer*" perceives that their atoms are destroyed, and that they become "*unparticled matter*," which of course could have no form nor size, and therefore be no *substance*. This annihilated, this "*unparticled matter*," this nothing, is what Davis calls the *mind* of man. "The natural senses," says he, page 46, "are cognisant of corporeal and formal investiture; but when things pass into their various progressive conditions, they are lost sight of. Like the *water*—which, while remaining as such, is perceived by the senses; but, when it passes into steam, air, and the luminous ether, becomes rare and refined—the natural mind and senses lose the perception of its existence, and apply to it, as to all unparticled matter, the appellation of *spirit*, for the want of a better term to define its condition. To me, this all is known as matter become rare and unparticled—as the *ultimate* of matter, to which is applied the word *spirit*." Immediately after this, he speaks of the mind being a "collection of particles or substances"—of some kind, at least—saying that the mind cannot have an "*absolute knowledge*" of "its own continuance and progression," but only a *belief*. "For no collection of particles or substances of any kind," says he, "possesses the power of self-analysis." Is it possible that the persons who transcribed, assisted, and witnessed the delivery of these revelations, could thus have assented to the materialist's creed in its most irrational form! "It is the law of *Matter*," says the lecturer, page 50, "to produce its ultimate, *Mind*. It is the law of mind to produce its corresponding principle,

*spirit.*" Which is the greater, the cause or the effect? A. J. Davis's body or his mind? His "mind is the ultimatum of his organization," and his Psychology is the ultimatum of his scientific knowledge. These are a thousandth part of the errors and absurdities contained in the first 50 of about 800 pages of these "Divine Revelations." There is undoubtedly something remarkably "*precocious*" in this lad of 19, though there is no necessity for claiming for him extraordinary ignorance and lack of education. To us there is something extremely ludicrous in such a lecturer, such lectures, and such an audience, that makes us think of Goldsmith's "Country School Master," and his auditors. He,

"With words of learned length, and thundering sound,

Amazed the listening rustics ranged around;  
And as they gazed, the more the wonder grew,  
How one small head could carry all he knew."

R.

[For the Dissector.]

## REMEDIAL INFLUENCE OF ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

To the Editor of the N. Y. Dissector :

DEAR SIR—In an early number of the Dissector, you copied an article, written by Rev. Mr. Beecher, detailing the evidences of remarkable clairvoyance of William Henry Child, and of the curative influence of Animal Magnetism in his case. He was a lad, ten years old, the son of Rev. Eber Child, Byron, Genesee Co., N. Y. He had been afflicted for a long time with exceedingly bad fits. For a week together, he often had fits most of the time. They were first induced, I believe, by some local injury in one of his legs. When first magnetized by Rev. Mr. Beecher, he became highly clairvoyant. He had become very much reduced by his fits, and was easily magnetized. Being asked what they should do for his fits, he replied, that should they magnetize him just as the fits were coming on, it would prevent them. This course was pursued by some members of the family, and with complete success. His fits were entirely broken up; and his health rapidly improved, until he became so strong that the family were no longer able to magnetize him.

I called at his father's residence in April, 1843, and having heard of his remarkable powers of clairvoyance, I proposed to mag-

netize him, to which he consented. In five minutes he was in sound magnetic sleep. His powers of clairvoyance were truly astonishing; which I tested in several ways; but especially in the examination of Mrs. G——, a lady of my acquaintance, who was in a diseased state, and at her own residence six miles distant. Her case was described with very great accuracy. The detail of this examination would occupy too much space in this communication; it will be deferred for the present; but I will endeavor to furnish it at as early a period as my pressing duties in attending to a sick family, and to parochial labors, will permit.

Some time in July, 1843, his father called on me and stated that though his son had no fits, still he was not perfectly well; and that he wished me to take him into my family and magnetize him for his health. He came by my consent. His fits were cured; but he still suffered severely from incubus and palpitation. He could not walk a quarter of a mile without inducing violent palpitation; and his sleep and rest were seriously disturbed by night-mare. Under the magnetic treatment he improved rapidly, and in three or four weeks was quite well, and walked, one day, about seven miles, with very little fatigue.

### BLEEDING AT THE NOSE.

He was often afflicted with bleeding from the nose; and was also cured of this by magnetism. When somniscient, he directed me how to magnetize him; also to place my finger on a particular spot in his head, where he said a vein was uncapped, which was the cause of his bleeding.

### HEALING OF A WOUND.

While with me, he cut one of his fingers badly, with a wood-saw. It was bound up with a dry bandage, and left magnetized, when he was awakened from magnetic sleep. And though the wound was bad, and had been torn open, so that it could not heal by the first intention, still he could use it without inconvenience, at once, pressing against the wound; and in a few days it was perfectly healed, with no other appliance than animal magnetism.

He remained with me about seven weeks, and left with health unusually good.

### SECOND CASE.

Mrs. E. F., of Mumfordsville, Monroe Co., N. Y., was a member of my congregation, while I resided in that place, in 1842 and 1843. During March, 1843, she was se-

verely afflicted with Ophthalmia of her right eye. She had been treated some years before, for the same disease, in the Eye Infirmary, in New York; and for a long time wore a silver tube in the Lachrymal Duct.

The recurrence of this affection was apparently induced by a portion of calomel, ordered by her family physician, as she was rather ill. She found no relief from any remedial appliance used; and when brought into a state of insufferable anguish from extreme nervous irritation, she sent to me, requesting me to make the effort to relieve her by animal magnetism. I found her in great anguish,—tossing in agony upon her bed. She had had no rest for two or three days and nights; and was truly a great sufferer. She had disbelieved in animal magnetism; and was induced to send for me, by extreme suffering, from which she could find no relief.

The first application was made by placing the hand on the organ of Firmness,—willing a quiet state of the nervous system. This was effected in about five minutes; when she became entirely calm and quiet. I then made passes, magnetizing the diseased eye. The Lachrymal Duct was closed up; and there was a lump in the inner corner of the eye, about the size of a small flattened pea. In about ten minutes more, her eye was entirely free from anguish; and the inflammation much abated. She rested well that night; and subsequently, I believe, she was magnetized once or twice more. In a few days her eye was almost well; when her physician again called to see her, and gave her another portion of calomel to cleanse her stomach. Soon after taking this, her eye became inflamed again, and was as bad as when I was first called to see her. I magnetized it daily for a week, and it was nearly well. She went out on a visit April 10th; the air was cold and damp. She took cold, and was again visited with all the afflictive symptoms in the diseased eye.

I again called to see her, but being unable to stay long enough to magnetize her fully,—I magnetized a piece of money, and gave her directions to magnetize herself with the money. She soon reduced the inflammation by holding the money in one hand, looking at it, and making passes with the other, at the same time *willing* the effect, as she would do, if magnetizing another person. In a few days she completed the cure, and became quite

well by her own efforts, without my presence.

Your very much obliged friend,  
SAMUEL GRISWOLD.

*Lyme, Hamburg, June 30, 1847.*

[For the Dissector.]

## DIRECTING CLAIRVOYANTS TO DISTANT PATIENTS.

DR. SHERWOOD:—As Clairvoyants are often greatly fatigued by tedious journeys to find far-distant patients, and sometimes even shrink from the toil; it is an object, as you have suggested, to relieve them, especially as they will be better able to examine the patients to whom they are sent. And as I have practised on a plan more simple than any suggested in your Manual—ninth edition, page 151—it is here suggested for the benefit of yourself and others.

When you put a person into the somniscient state for the express purpose of examining a distant patient, you have only to tell him your object; and will him to be present with the patient when he becomes clairvoyant; or if already in the somniscient state, will your clairvoyant to be at the residence and in the presence of your distant patient.

In this way there will be no weariness experienced in finding the residence or distinguishing the person of your patient. It will be done with perfect ease and exactness; and equally so, even if you are entirely unacquainted with your patient, or the particular house in which he resides.

Your much obliged friend,

SAMUEL GRISWOLD.

I noticed some typographical errors in my communication on the Polarity of the Human Hand. Near the close is an important mistake, as follows: "In magnetizing for diseases of the (internal) organs, the *right* hand should generally be placed on the spine opposite the organ diseased," &c. It should read: "The *left* hand should generally be placed over on the spine, opposite the organ diseased, and the right hand over the place where the pain is felt."

S. G.

## THE DISSECTOR.

NEW YORK, JULY 1, 1847.

## Davis's Revelations.

*The Principles of Nature, Her Divine Revelations, and a Voice to Mankind.* By and through ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS, the Poughkeepsie Seer and Clairvoyant. New York: J. S. Redfield. Clinton Hall. 1847. 800 pp. 782.

NOTES of preparation have often been sounded during the last two years, of the advent of these revelations, and they have at last appeared.

The book gives first an account of the manner in which it was composed from Davis's lectures, by his amanuensis William Fishbough, and then a miraculous account of the selection of witnesses to hear the revelations, whom Davis addresses in the following language: "Being thus situated, surrounded by witnesses earnest, desirous, and qualified to receive the truth; a scribe spiritually absorbed in the things related; and a manipulator to govern the action in delivering these things, I have been *impressed* without obstruction, to present these disclosures.

"Such, brethren, were the *external* means by and through which this book has made its appearance. Your duty is to *search*; and after searching, ask nature and your own *superior judgments* how much practical truth there is herein revealed. In doing this, you will display the dignity of your natures, perform your highest duty, receive the most unbounded interior approbation, and obtain Mental Happiness!"

It will be observed that Davis says he has been *impressed* to present these disclosures, and he often repeats these expressions; and the question arises at once: From what source did he receive his impressions? He answers this question in the following paragraph, pp. 43-4: "The free unshackled *spirit*, then, should be considered as the essential principle belonging to the organization, that with one sympathetic chain, encircling all *spheres* of this existence, can receive *impressions* instantaneously of all

things desired, and with its *spiritual* senses, communicate with *spiritual* substances.\* And as all these must be in a *sphere* necessarily attached to *this* (or first) *sphere*, it is *there* that I receive my *impressions*. I do not receive these from the Great Supreme Mind, but from this *second sphere*, focus, or medium, which legitimately belongs to *this globe alone*. When you ask me a question, I am then existing in the medium or *sphere* of the body (his spirit is); but investigating and finding the answer, I pass to the (*second*) *sphere* (his spirit does), where I can associate with truth and reality," or with the spirits of the second sphere, or of second persons."

This is precisely the manner in which other persons in the magnetic state obtain information on any subject whenever they find it difficult to obtain it in any other manner; for there is nothing so easy for a person in this state as to read the minds of other persons.

They will not only copy with great facility from the minds of other persons, but they will copy from books much faster than they can read it in their natural state, and they will often copy whole pages nearly verbatim from books they never read in their natural state. Some of these persons have been induced to make speeches and deliver lectures in the magnetic state on various subjects like Davis, and some of these have been distinguished for delivering very superior lectures, and often those that were equally luminous on the opposite sides of the same subjects, whether of history, religion, philosophy, or politics. They also often, in delivering these lectures, mix up with or add to the information obtained from second persons their own opinions, and then attempt to pass them off for knowledge obtained from a higher source; and finally, there are those who, in the magnetic state, are not only much better speakers in that state, but are much greater liars than they are in the natural state.

It should be observed here that Davis, after having nearly exhausted his powers of circumlocution in delivering himself of the idea that he received his *impressions* from the *second sphere*, which belongs to *this globe alone*,

\* He constantly confounds *spirit* with *matter*.

and *not* from the Great Supreme Mind, was *impressed* by one of his auditors that he had acknowledged too much—that it was understood to be no great affair for a person in the magnetic state to read the minds of other persons, and then people did not care about the minds of other persons,—they wanted information from a higher source, when Davis was immediately *impressed* with the necessity of contradicting what he had before said in regard to the source from which he received his impressions, and he does so in the very next paragraph, and in the following words:—

“It is impossible by *words*, to convey a full and adequate conception of the manner in which I arrive at truth. I can only employ such words as convey all the idea that words can convey, of this process. *My information is not derived from any persons that exist in the sphere into which my mind enters, but it is the result of a law of truth, emanating from the Great Positive Mind.*” Now this last expression, or Great Positive Mind, Davis often uses as synonymous with Great Supreme Mind, as he does in this case.

There are many other glaring contradictions in the work; and besides, many of the statements and theories in it are glaring absurdities that are contradicted by the plainest and well ascertained facts. Mythology is also often hashed up in the work, with realities, in the most delectable manner.

The work is divided into three parts, as follows:

Part I.—The Key. Part II.—The Revelation. Part III.—The Application. We have given a few examples of the KEY, and we will now give an example of the REVELATION. “IN THE BEGINNING, the Universe—cælum was one boundless, undefinable, and unimaginable ocean of LIQUID FIRE! The most vigorous and ambitious imagination is not capable of forming an adequate conception of the height, and depth, and length, and breadth thereof. There was one vast expanse of liquid substance. It was without bounds—inconceivable—and with qualities and essences incomprehensible. This was the original condition of MATTER. It was without forms; for it was but one form. It had no motions; but it was an eternity of Motion. It was without parts, for it was a

Whole. Particles did not exist; but the Whole was as *one* particle. There were not Suns, but it was one Eternal Sun. It had no beginning, and it was without end. It had not length; for it was a Vortex of one Eternity. It had not circles; for it was one infinite Circle. It had not disconnected power; but it was the very essence of all Power. Its inconceivable magnitude and constitution were such as not to develope forces, but Omnipotent Power,” page 121.

The whole of the above paragraph is so glaringly and positively absurd as to prevent it from obtaining credence in the weakest minds, and does not require further remark.

*Origin of the law of gravitation.*—After a long and tedious story, we come to the origin of the law of gravitation. “The infinite mass of Matter developed heat and light by virtue of inherent fire. And Power being positive, developed a negative, or the eternal law of gravitation. Thus Motion was eternally established in and throughout the vast material composition.”

“The extension of the atmosphere from the Great Body was likewise infinite. And the Great Centre or Sun constantly gave off heat and light, each of which was a development of Matter, thrown off by its repelling power.”

So it seems after all, the *infinite mass* of Matter—of liquid fire which filled *infinite* space, was nothing more than a Sun, whose atmosphere extended through *infinite* space. How ridiculous!

“Thus an incomprehensible and incalculable number of Centres or Suns were produced by the development of heat and light, and their gradual condensation. And from these were created systems of planets, each of which revolved around its controlling centre, according to the development of the circular and *spiral* motions, and the influences of attraction and repulsion, or the laws of centripetal and centrifugal forces,” page 128-9.

We have now seen how the Suns and planets were formed, and put in motion, according to these revelations, and we may proceed to the revelations on other subjects.

“The condition of the earth at the period now under examination, is again very different from what it was at any previous period.

The many vicissitudes of the seasons were numerous and extreme, rendered so by the influence of the lines of variation and no variation upon the fluid and ethereal elements," page 296. Every schoolboy knows better.

"The dissimilarity of the temperature of the poles at different times is owing to the varying conditions of an existing element in its lower and higher degrees of development, which, though it is not generated by foreign bodies, is assisted by them to sustain a connexion with the whole envelope of the earth from the lower to the higher state of the atmosphere." He is entirely mistaken, and knows nothing on this subject. "The north has been considered as the location of the magnetic pole, evolving incessantly attractive, electric fluid, which determines the direction of the magnetic needle. In the torrid portions of the earth, the particles thrown from the sun (which, when decomposed, produce light) act upon the water and atmosphere, which action results in a constant sublimation and development of heat, or the magnetic medium. It is here termed magnetic for distinction; but properly it is the unfolded heat contained in the previously-cold medium. *The imperceptible rushing of this current towards the north determines the direction of the magnetic needle.*

"There are likewise three distinct fluids crossing the earth from the south to the north, and from the north to the south, by a mutual exchange of elements from the poles. There is also an intersecting fluid that crosses each of the others; and this has been termed the dia-magnetic fluid. The former fluids are in relations of equality to each other. Their termination at the north is the nucleus of the magnetic pole. The direction of these fluids establishes the lines of no variation. The motion of their attending fluids determines the lines of variation. These lines revolve from east to west half-way round the earth while the sun is passing through one of the signs of the zodiac," page 288-9.

Now observations have shown that the location of the magnetic poles determines the direction of the magnetic needle, and in the clearest and most satisfactory manner. Observations have shown, too, that the lines of no variation is a great magnetic circle connecting the magnetic poles in the most direct

and strongest manner, and corresponding with magnetic axes between the magnetic poles of iron or steel magnets. Observations have also shown that the magnetic poles and lines of no variation perform a revolution around the earth from east to west in 666 years, and in the clearest and most satisfactory manner; yet we are told in these revelations that these lines revolve half-way round the earth while the sun is passing through one of the signs of the zodiac, or in 2133 years.

It would be very difficult to find anywhere so much profound ignorance in so small a space as that quoted in the above paragraphs. Davis knew nothing about the subjects of these paragraphs; nothing about the formation of suns or planets; nothing about the cause of the direction of the magnetic needle; nothing about the cause of a dissimilarity of temperature at the poles in different periods—nothing about the magnetic poles, lines of no variation, or their time of revolution, and these revelations are consequently humbugs.

It is now a well established fact that the Tides are produced by the action of the sun and moon, but Davis's revelations say, "That this cannot be true; for attraction is not an established principle, especially beyond the atmosphere of any body or substance," page 244.

There is displayed here the most consummate ignorance of the cause of the tides, and of the laws of motion; and yet this revelator has the ridiculous vanity to tell us that "minds properly constituted and directed will repose entire confidence in these immutable teachings of Nature, of the Universe, of the Divine Mind," page 392.

Davis adopts the Plutonic theory in the creation of suns and planets, and the theory of the Vestiges of Creation in the creation of man, as will be seen in the following paragraph:

"The germ of man has thus been discovered in the lower forms of the animal kingdom, and traced through all of its progressive stages of development, rising from the lower degrees through the great body of the animal creation, with its many and diversified branches and their modifications, up to the blooming perfection of the living tree, whose

fruit is the organization of man," page 328.

On the subject of religion, Davis adopts Tom Paine as his model, and often refers to Swedenborg as a co-worker in new revelations, and says:—

"I am also impressed to recognise the important revelations made by and through Emanuel Swedenborg, the Swedish philosopher and psychologist," page 587.

In the third part of the work on association and the re-organization of society, he takes Fourier as his model, and says:

"Hear ye not, when a noble and expansive mind, like that of Charles Fourier, demonstrates the interior truth, even to your senses, that the world of mankind is composed of the requisite notes to play a perfect tune of peace and harmony.

"Concerning this very noble personage, and his philosophy, more will hereafter be related, especially when the principles of his microcosmogony make their appearance prominently in the third part, or application of this work," page 586.

Davis commences the third and last part of the work, called "A Voice to Mankind," with an attempt to array the working against the other classes of society, as will be seen in the following paragraph:

"The Human Race is composed of three distinct parts, classes, or societies. The poor, ignorant, enslaved, oppressed, and working classes, constitute the lower stratum of society. The semi-wealthy, learned, enslavers, oppressors, and dictating classes, form the second or transition stratum; and the rich, intelligent, enslaving, oppressing, and idle classes, form the third stratum, and serve to complete the body of mankind," page 679.

Having now given a concise view of the three different parts of this work, we should observe here that there is *no clairvoyance* in it from the beginning to the end, and that this fact was, and is well known to Davis, Fishbough and company, and the fact that he was not a *seer*, or *clairvoyant*, as is pretended, was not only well known to that company, as will be seen, but it was known to other persons. An attempt was consequently made to avoid this important point in the following ingenious manner.

"The expression 'I see,' which I frequently use in familiar conversation during examinations of various descriptions, would, *literally* understood, convey a *wrong* impression. If I should use any other term you would not understand its signification. This expression naturally conveys the idea of *vision*—of an optical knowledge of a foreign substance. In reality the expression simply conveys the idea of *knowing* by a peculiar process; for the knowledge of a foreign substance is obtained through the imperceptible reflection which the substance casts upon the retina. So it is knowledge, *sight* being simply a process to convey inward the existence of the outer. Hence if the expression 'I know,' were ordinarily used (which would be correct), I would use the same to give the impression of what I know, independently of optical or other processes of rudimental perception. Therefore, 'I see,' means simply 'I know,'" page 52.

Davis thus labors to have it believed that *clairvoyants* do not see *literally*, but "*know*" from *impressions* only as he does. Such labors are, however, perfectly futile, for it is not only well known to thousands of persons who have been in the daily habit of investigating this subject, that *clairvoyants* do see *literally* as in the natural state, but it is equally well known that little or no dependence can be placed on the *stories* of those who do not see *literally* in the magnetic state, but have impressions only, and are not therefore *clairvoyants*, but mere impressionists.

#### La Roy Sunderland Again.

We published Mr. Sunderland's theory of Mesmerism in the January number of this Journal at his request, and we also reviewed it in the same number in the most mild and tender manner, notwithstanding the bare pretensions and glaring absurdities by which it was everywhere distinguished. Mr. S. does not, however, appreciate in a meek and becoming manner our forbearance, but pours out from the Wooster Medical Journal vials of wrath upon us to appease his private griefs.



# THE PRETENDED REVELATIONS OF CLAIRVOYANT DAVIS.\*

[From the New York True Sun.]

ONE William Fishbough and a Dr. S. S. Lyon, have issued to the world a book which they claim to be the record of a divine revelation from the spiritual world—which is equivalent to a revelation from God—and made through the medium of a boy named Davis, while in a real or pretended abnormal or preternatural state that is termed clairvoyance. The history of the book is briefly this:—Some four years ago a mesmerizer lectured in Poughkeepsie, and amongst his converts was a certain tailor named Livingston, who discovered in himself a most wonderful mesmeric power. Among the acquaintances of Livingston was this Davis, a shoe-maker's apprentice, about 17 years of age, and utterly illiterate, on whom the former exercised his art. It was soon found that the young cordwainer was in an extraordinary degree susceptible of the mesmeric influence, and after about three months of practice, the sewer of cloth and the sewer of leather abandoned their trades, and set up the business of prescribing for the sick—Livingston operating as the mesmerizer, and Davis in the clairvoyant state *diagnosing* the disease and prescribing the remedies. These practitioners of course took to peripatetics, and at Bridgeport, Ct., Davis became acquainted with Dr. S. S. Lyon, and, at this place or elsewhere, also with the immortal William Fishbough. A bargain was struck up (Davis all the while in the clairvoyant state) between the three: Dr. Lyon was to act as the mesmerizer of Davis, who, being put into the clairvoyant state, was to enter the spiritual world and bring back to the natural revelations in science, morals, and religion, while the modest but immortal William Fishbough was to act as the scribe or reporter, recording the words as they fell from the oracular lips of the shoe-maker's apprentice. In the meantime in conjunction with Dr. Lyon (who it seems had cut out the tailor), Davis was to continue the clairvoyant practice of medicine in order to obtain for this trinity of revealers grub and garments, without which even the spiritual explorer himself could not sustain his mission. To facilitate this design, the city of New York was selected as the scene of operations, and here, accordingly, for 18 months, terminating last April, have the three co-workers been engaged (aside from the doctoring business) in uttering, writing, and printing the "astounding revelations" which have

now been published in the book to which we have referred.

The subject of mesmerism has of late years attracted a good deal of attention, and some of the extraordinary phenomena it claims to have presented, have found many intelligent believers. It is but natural, therefore, that this work, claiming to be the record of impressions received by the mind in a mesmeric state—which impressions also are claimed to have come from the spiritual world, or from heaven, or from God—should be regarded as worthy of examination by all believers in mesmerism. Prof. Bush, a man of Hebrew and Oriental lore, whose mind, never well balanced, has now been completely upset by religious excitements, has also given to the pretensions of Davis's associates, a notoriety and consequence they could not otherwise have received. The claims which he has asserted for Davis, leave but little doubt that his credulous mind has been grossly imposed on. To cap the climax of notoriety, comes the self-constituted champion of anti-innovators—the famous "T. L."—who, with more bigotry than brains, maintains that, if this work have not been produced by human imposture, then was Davis directly inspired by the devil to reveal to the earth the Bible of Hell in opposition to the truths of science and philosophy, and of the revealed Word of God.

We have examined this work of Fishbough, which he calls the "Revelations of Davis," and have been "astonished," yea, even "astounded," not, however, at its "marvellous revelations," or "the ponderousness of its science," but at its wish-washiness, its insipidities, sometimes at its utter fatuity, and sometimes at its numerous school-boy truisms. We have seen but few things in the book we would decidedly call falsehoods or undoubted errors, and they have excited in us no surprise, for they are to be found in all scientific and philosophic works—good, bad, and indifferent. Speculations about Fourierism, the inhabitants of Saturn, the heavenly bodies, laws of nature, the animal kingdom, Swedenborgianism, etc., are simply fanciful or absurd (chiefly the latter), and one cannot, we think, properly predicate of them either truth or falsehood. The book contains an attack on all revealed religion (that is Davis's or Fishbough's alone excepted), and especially on the Christian religion. The miracles of Christ and his apostles are denied, and many silly attempts are made to ridicule passages in the New Testament, and indeed to ridicule the whole Bible. As a specimen of this clairvoyant-wit, we will mention that of Fishbough's calling the Holy Bible "*excellent soft bark*." We see nothing specially alarming in the fact that this book is an infidel work. It but re-

\* Revelations, &c., by A. J. Davis, the Poughkeepsie Clairvoyant. For sale by W. H. Graham.

iterates the stale attacks on Christianity that are now afloat in forty thousand books. There is nothing new in this infidel philosophy. Any ordinary compiler, without the incumbrance of thinking powers to lead him aside from his task, might have collected the same infidel dogmas, and woven them into the tissue of technical formulas. He would have to rely somewhat on recent writers, such as Benjamin Constant, De Wette, the Swedenborgians, the author of "Vestiges of Creation," &c., as well as Kneeland and Tom Paine. Some of the speculations in regard to physical phenomena are absolutely new, and we have something that is really news from the inhabitants of Saturn. But what then? One might, without the aid of Davis's sojourns in the spiritual world, bring forward a new theory of the moon's inhabitants. Suppose that we should maintain that the lunatics carried their heads in their mouths instead of under their shoulders as has been heretofore supposed by some. Such a supposition might also be received as an "astounding revelation." The greatest marvel to us is that the spirit of Davis should, from its journeyings to another world, bring back so many platitudes, fatuities, undeniable and more than common-place truisms, most of which even idiots would perceive and utter. We aver that much of the book is true, and we doubt whether any other than a small school-boy mind could write so many truths, or rather truisms within the same space. As a specimen of the greater part of this work, we give one passage, the first in the book, which passage, at least, could not have been brought from the spiritual world by Davis, as it appears to have been plagiarized from the first English composition written many years ago by a small boy in a district school in Connecticut. The following is Fishbough's plagiarized passage:—

"Reason is a principle belonging to man alone. The office of the mind is to investigate, search, and explore the principles of Nature, and trace physical manifestations in their many and varied ramifications. Thought, in its proper nature, is uncontrolled, unlimited. It is free to investigate, and to rise into lofty aspirations.

"The mind cannot be chained! It will leave its resting place, and explore the fields of science, and not satisfied with the investigation of terrestrial things, it has soared to the heavens and counted the stars."

The following is the original from which the above seems to have been paraphrased into philosophical technicalities:

"Man has got a reason or soul, but brutes have not got any reason. The mind of man thinks and studies, and knows all about nature and everything else. His thoughts run

all over creation and nobody can stop them. You can't fetter the mind as you do a horse, or chain it up to a post. It will mow down all the meadows of science, and climb up to the moon and way beyond and go to counting the stars."

If we should translate the whole of this work into every day language, and publish it as the reflections of some ordinary man, we believe it would be regarded as a very harmless and very stupid book by the very few who would give it any attention whatever.

But whatever may be the character of the contents of the book, still the following inquiry must be satisfied. Was the book dictated by Davis while his mind was in an abnormal state, termed clairvoyance? or is such a claim for its origin founded in fraud and injustice? Mr. Fishbough asserts that Davis, while in the clairvoyant state, selected three witnesses to attest the delivery of his lectures, as they are termed, and that others also witnessed their delivery. Yet, by some strange oversight, not one of the witnesses—by affidavit, or even by a single note or word, appears in connexion with the book, to test its genuineness, with the exception of an extract from the manuscript of a man now dead; we have no assurance but the word of Fishbough, that Davis, with collusion or deceit, ever delivered these lectures. Mr. Fishbough claims, however, to possess the attestation of these witnesses in manuscript. It is acknowledged by Mr. Fishbough that the language of the book is his own, that Davis used bad English, and incoherent language; consequently he did but deliver the substance of the lectures attributed to him.

But admit the doctrines of mesmerism, and that Davis, in a clairvoyant state, did utter from his lips substantially the contents of this book, while Fishbough took down his words, and dressed up the ideas in their present arrangement and style. Even then, by the acknowledged philosophy of mesmerism, still the pretence that Davis uttered a divine revelation from the "interior," or "spiritual" world—that is, from God—is an imposture.

There is much evidence—and evidence, too, which many educated and truly philosophic minds have acknowledged as convincing—that persons can be put into an abnormal state, sometimes termed the "mesmeric sleep," and that persons in this condition are insensible to pain. There is also evidence that some patients in a certain degree of this mesmeric state have the power of clairvoyance.

All the proofs we have to show the power of clairvoyance go to establish the doctrine that the clairvoyant can only utter more fully his own thoughts, and also utter the thoughts and ideas of persons with whom he is put in

a sympathetic or mesmeric connexion. There is no evidence of any other clairvoyant power than this, and intelligent mesmerists have claimed no other. This doctrine will explain the origin of the lectures, admitting Davis to have delivered them. He was put in connexion with others, chiefly Fishbough, who in reality dictated the lectures through the medium of the clairvoyant state of Davis's mind. But Prof. Bush says there are doctrines of Swedenborg in the lectures which neither Davis nor his immediate associates could have previously read, and offers a reward of \$500 to any one who will prove the contrary. Prof. Bush does not understand this matter. Dr. Lyon, the mesmerizer, put Davis in connexion with Prof. Bush, or some other Swedenborgian, and thus obtained what Fishbough did not know. We have no doubt that the book from beginning to end is substantially Fishbough's, and (if there be truth in clairvoyance), though he may have produced it through the medium of the clairvoyant mind of Davis, yet he might have written it as well without, as with, this mesmeric aid. The only advantage in employing the clairvoyance of Davis, seems to have been, the enabling the authors of the work to practise the imposture of a claim to have made, through the medium of this ignorant boy, "divine revelations" from the "spiritual world."

#### DR. G. SCHMID'S HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT WITH UNDILUTED MEDICINES.\*

[From the British Journal of Homœopathy, July, 1847.]

[THERE are few questions of greater interest to the Homœopathic practitioner than that of posology, or the proper doses to be administered in the treatment of acute and chronic diseases; and none, we may say, in which there exists greater discrepancy of opinion among the disciples of Hahnemann;—for it offers free scope for every variety of opinion, there being two posological extremes, a happy medium, and eclecticism without number. In fact, we may almost say, there are as many opinions as there are practitioners, and each is prepared to prove the superiority of his own by an imposing array of cases. While all are held together by the principle "*similia similibus curantur*," each thinks the subject of dose an open question; few (if any) abide by Hahnemann's latest standard of decil-

lionths; those who arrogate to themselves the appellation of orthodox Hahnemannians, have travelled far away, under the guidance of Gross, into the mystic regions of the 200th, 800th, and 10,000th dilutions, while the section, by the former styled *specifickers*, have gradually descended to the lowest numerals in the scale of dilutions until they have attained their *ultima Thule* in the Schmidian tinctures and first triturations. To some this variety of opinions and practice appears to be indicative of the untenableness of Hahnemann's dogma, but to us it merely shows that, as long as practitioners remain faithful to the Homœopathic principle, they will meet with a large amount of success in practice under almost every variety of dose. That there must be some rule for the dose, and that this rule will ultimately be discovered, we cannot doubt; and for the solution of this problem the best plan undoubtedly is to examine the evidence of all parties; and hence we make it a duty to present to our readers in the pages of this Journal, every variety of practice where the therapeutic law discovered by Hahnemann is the guiding star. In our last number we revealed the transcendental terminus of the posological line; and in this we display the opposite material terminus, where we find our old friend, G. Schmid, the very antipode of those who avail themselves of the aid of the horse-training Jenichen's mysterious manipulations,—in good old style

—"prepared with death to wrestle,  
Armed with a mortar and a pestle,"—

and meting out his doses by the drop, the grain, and the scruple.]—EDITS.

#### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

A few words only are necessary on the subject of my doses in general. Of those medicines which yield their medicinal virtues wholly or in part to Spirits of Wine, being thus fitted for tincture or solution, I give for the most part, the undiluted tincture, and the more or less concentrated solution. As the vehicle for the medicines fitted for tincture or solution, I use water, or milk-sugar, or sweet-sugar: chiefly water for diseases in which the patients are confined to bed or the house; milk-sugar for patients able to go about; and sweet-sugar for children.

Trituration of several medicines with milk-sugar, or any other indifferent vehicle equally well adapted, has a very great influence on their activity. Although this is chiefly to be observed in medicines which exhibit little or no activity in the untrituated state, yet, even in the heroic medicines, which, in the undiluted state, display powers dangerous to life,

\* From Homœopathische Arzneibereitung und Gabengrösse. Von Dr. G. Schmid. Wien, 1846. P. 110.

such as Arsenic, the influence of the trituration is essential and welcome in their therapeutic employment, inasmuch as they are by this means brought into a quantitatively serviceable dose for therapeutic purposes.

But I think I can best exhibit my doses and mode of treatment by the faithful and exact narration of some individual cases.

[Before giving these cases, Dr. Schmid reminds the reader that they are not intended as complete histories of cures of diseases, but merely such parts as bear distinctly on the subject, and illustrate clearly the effect of some individual medicine in a certain dose.]

### I.—ARNICA—(TWO CASES).

A girl of two-and-a-half years old had been affected with diarrhœa for several weeks; the stools were frequent, fluid, frothy, acrid, and very fœtid, accompanied by much flatulence. The belly was distended; the appetite small; frequent fœtid eructation; the sleep at night restless and interrupted; the temperature of the skin changeable, at one time cold and at another warm; complexion earthy, and looks unhealthy; the child was weak and fretful, and had a frequent short cough.

On the 10th December, 1844, I gave 6 drops of the pure Tincture of Arnica in about three ounces of water, to be taken in six doses in the course of twenty-four hours.

This remedy was continued for three following days with such good effect, that, on the 15th, not only all the functions were natural, but the little one was again strong and cheerful, playing about as usual.

### II.

On the 9th of February, 1844, I was consulted by a patient on account of a very troublesome and painful prolapsus of the anus. It comes on after walking five or ten minutes, and the pain hinders him from going any further, and forces him to return without delay. He had formerly suffered much from hemorrhoids. The prolapsed portion of the rectum still displays flaccid hemorrhoidal excrescences of a bluish red color, after the replacing of which the pains instantly cease. These troubles have already lasted from October last; that is now four months. The remedies hitherto used have all failed to give any permanent benefit, and the only thing that has given even relief for the time is washing the whole body with cold water. Besides this painful prolapsus, the whole system of this patient is in a weakened and relaxed state. The most prominent symptoms are, bad digestion and occasional attacks of very painful head-aches, which are either beating

and pressing in one or other temple, or burning on the crown of the head. The head-ache is accompanied by darkness before the eyes and loss of vision, giddiness, and incapacity for all exertion. Every excitement of the mind, which is very irritable, aggravates all the symptoms. It is a circumstance to be remarked, that during the head-aches the rectum does not fall down, and *vice versâ*; and that, further, the head-ache is most quickly and certainly removed by a cup of coffee. His state of mind is most pitiable, and he passes many nights sleepless.

I gave Arnica in the concentrated tincture prepared from the fresh root: three drops for a dose, five times a day till the 22d February.

The action of this remedy was surprisingly rapid and beneficial on the rectum; so that from this time forward no further complete prolapsus took place, and the slight threatenings of it soon also subsided. Besides this, during the use of the Arnica the general state of the patient was materially improved. At the same time I must add, that, for the progress and continuance of the improvement, other remedies were also used; but these I have not particularly noted. The object of the improvement was, however, so far gained, that though in the following year the patient suffered once again from disorder of the rectum, it, however, was not this time prolapsus, but arose from swelled hemorrhoidal excrescences, and this, after some discharge of blood, completely subsided in a few days, under the use of Aconitum, in the dose of three drops of the concentrated tincture five times a day.

The patient had suffered from hemorrhoidal symptoms many years before, when he was in a much stronger state of health; and he was then also stronger, and continues so till the present day.

### III.—BELLADONNA.

A boy six years of age, who had been ill for two months, was seen by me for the first time on the 3d February, 1844. Of a naturally lively and cheerful disposition, he had become gradually cross, lazy, weaker and thinner, and looked very ill. His appetite is very small; the fecal evacuations irregular; at one time firm, scanty, whitish, and unfrequent; at another, frequent and pappy. For the last fourteen days he is attacked every evening with heat and increased thirst, restless sleep and morning sweating, frequent cough, with copious expectoration of tough, greenish mucus; the nostrils are also often filled with similar mucus.

All these symptoms had gradually increased

to such a degree, that he was seized on the 2d February with distinct fever, and could no longer remain out of bed. On the forenoon of the 3d, I found the pulse above 90, the head hot, the cavity of the mouth, the tongue, and tonsils remarkably pale and dry, the last being also swollen, the stomach distended and sensitive even to slight touch and to inspiration; the abdomen likewise distended, besides the above-mentioned symptoms in an increased degree. I gave *Belladonna* in the dose of one drop of the tincture six times in the course of twenty-four hours.

The night of the 3d February was passed in quieter sleep, and in the morning moderate perspiration came on. Next morning there was considerable relief of all symptoms. The medicine was continued in the same dose and repetition till the 6th February, when it was reduced to five doses daily, and on the 9th to four doses. On the 12th the medicine was discontinued, and the boy was quite well and all the symptoms gone.

#### IV.—*BRYONIA*.

A man near forty had suffered for two years from cramp in the stomach, as he himself termed his disorder. It consisted in the following:—The stomach becomes constricted and squeezed together, so that the breathing is thereby impeded; then an acrid corrosive fluid rises into the mouth (waterbrash) in large quantity. Such an attack has come on for a long time daily, at least once. There is, besides, diminished appetite and bad digestion, torpid and irregular bowels, and the abdomen distended with troublesome flatulence. The patient had hitherto been treated Allopathically, and had used a great variety of medicines, but all without benefit.

I gave him *Bryonia*, in the dose of four drops of the concentrated tincture four times a day.

Already on the following and immediately subsequent days the patient felt only a threatening of his trouble. After that he had no further complaint during the time he continued the medicine, which he earnestly requested to be allowed to do for several weeks, in order completely to eradicate his disease of two years' standing. At the same time the digestion and action of the bowels returned to their normal state.

The patient has, up to the present time—already above a year—had no return of his complaint.

#### V.—*CANTHARIDES*.

A man upwards of fifty, whose physician I have been for the last six years, had suffered, when I first began to treat him, from pa-

ralysis of the lower extremities, so that he was not only unable to walk without assistance about the room, which he had not been out of for four weeks, but was no longer able to stand upright without support. Up till this time he had been treated Allopathically. The last medicine used was Corrosive Sublimate in the form of pills. Years ago the patient had suffered from ulcers in the feet, which were now healed, leaving discolored spots and cicatrices. *Sabadilla* was the medicine which in my hands restored him to the use of his legs again.

But the case which I wish to report is the following:—The patient had often since the above illness, during the night and for several nights in succession, paroxysms of violent pain in the lower extremities, sometimes in one spot, and sometimes in another. The painful spot was neither swollen, nor red, nor hot, nor tender on pressure. The pain was digging and cutting as with a knife, and often so violent and continued that he mostly passed the whole night in moaning. Neither heat, nor cold, nor mustard plasters, which the patient himself applied in despair, gave even the smallest mitigation of the pain. Several medicines administered by me were also equally fruitless. But all the more strikingly beneficial and rapid was the action of *Cantharides*, in the dose of two drops of the concentrated tincture every hour or two hours, according to the violence of the pain. The result was, that always in the first night of the use of this medicine a great remission of the pain took place, and on the following night there was at most only a threatening of it.

#### VI.—*CARBO VEGETABILIS*.

E., a man of forty had suffered, in December, 1843, from an attack of pleurisy, according to his own report (it was most likely an inflammation of the heart or pericardium). For this he had been treated Allopathically; local bleedings, cataplasms, and very warm relaxing drinks were used, with directions to keep very warm, and these, along with inward medicines, kept the patient in a constant profuse perspiration. Even before this illness, since the beginning of the previous summer the patient had been for the most part out of health, though he had never been confined to bed. According to his own report, he had suffered from different disorders of the abdominal viscera, and from rushings of blood; violent perspirations were brought on by even slight causes of excitement. Against these complaints he had used a great variety of medicines, without procuring any material and permanent relief.

When the patient was at length freed from the above-mentioned inflammation, which ha-

lasted longer than usual, still he could not regain his health and strength. Among the remaining symptoms it was chiefly the rushings of blood that not only annoyed and weakened the patient, but also, for the most part, deprived him of rest at night. This vascular orgasm was most marked and visible in the heart, by strong pulsation causing anxiety to the patient. Neither the venesection employed on account of it, nor the internal remedies—Aqua Laurocerusi, Digitalis, Sulph. Quininæ—had produced any improvement. Even Muriate of Morphia was unable to procure for the patient any refreshing sleep; the feeling of weakness after the night was spent, was greater than on the foregoing evening. Under the protracted duration and even increase of this disorder, at length wandering pains in the extremities came on, against which frictions and fumigations, with juniper berries, had been used. Thereupon these pains, it is true, ceased; but, on the other hand, there came on again such oppression of the breathing and constriction of the heart, that the patient, who was in great danger of his life, was already provided with the consolations of his religion when I entered the sick-room.

I found, besides the above symptoms, which still persisted, the pulse extremely irregular, intermitting, very frequent, weak, and empty; the beat of the heart of a corresponding character; profuse sweat, soon growing cold. The patient had no cough, but complained of great inward heat, of anxiety, and of violent thirst. A paralysis of the heart seemed to me not improbable. I saw the patient in the evening, and gave Arsenic in the 2d trituration. The night was passed pretty well, and the patient was even better, on the whole, next morning; the beat of the heart and pulse were no longer intermittent, and displayed also more energy. Auscultation and percussion showed no abnormality either in the heart or the other contents of the thorax. That was (if I mistake not) in February, 1844, between the 24th and 27th. On the 1st of March, the symptoms still persisted in their essential character, though better, and I gave the patient Carbo Vegetabilis, in the dose of five grains of the 1st trituration (2 to 100) every two hours. During the following days, while this medicine was continued—six of the above doses in the twenty-four hours—the state of the patient was so strikingly, so rapidly, and materially improved, that I visited him for the last time by the 5th of March, although the medicine was still continued for several days, whereupon he was able to visit me.

The patient was, by the use of this medicine alone, not only freed from his vascular orgasm, palpitation, oppression of breathing,

&c., but also the abdominal disorders which he had suffered from before the above-named inflammation, were removed. Among these disorders, more particularly, he had never had a regular evacuation of the bowels since the summer of the year before. The stools were ash-grey, mostly consistent, but of a remarkably small size. Carb. Veg. brought also the stools to their normal appearance.

#### VII.—CROCUS—(THREE CASES.)

On the 1st February, 1844, I was sent for in the night to see a boy of ten years old, who had been unwell for several days. Towards the evening of this day his face became suddenly much flushed, and then soon pale again; and this recurred several times at irregular intervals. He displayed indifference to what was going on around him, and at length, in one of the attacks of flushing, he became more abstracted, and fell into a short sleep. On waking he sat up in bed, and then stood up in it, and made various movements with great rapidity, without any consciousness of what he was about. After such a paroxysm, there followed a short season of rest, in which he came to himself, but without any recollection of what had been done in the paroxysm. After the rest, came again an attack, followed again by remission, and so it went on. When I saw him he was quiet, had increased heat and redness of the face, slow pulse, scarcely sixty in the minute, and the individual beats unequal. He was unconscious, but when roused, he came to himself, and recognised the bystanders and me also. The eyes were fixed and brilliant, the urine pale and scanty, abdomen retracted, no stool the past day. No desire for food or drink. In former years he had often suffered from copious bleeding of the nose, and more lately from various eruptions on the skin. His mother I had frequently treated for hemoptysis, and she had first come under my care as a hopeless case. His father died suddenly in a mad-house. The patient received Crocus: of the pure tincture twelve drops in about four ounces of water, to be taken in six doses, one every two hours. The same remedy was continued for the four following days, only seldomer repeated, because the condition of the patient was materially improved on the next day. After the four days all functions were again normal. Also since that time the disorder has not returned, and the boy has not been again ill up to the present day.

#### VIII.

On the 14th of March, 1844, I was sent for to a puerperal female who had been de-

livered the day before. The after-pains and the great hemorrhage and prostration of strength had excited apprehension. She complained of the sensation of inward heat and anxiety. The pulse was feeble and intermittent, and slightly increased in frequency. Fœtid odor of the mouth and perspiration, tongue moist and dirty, coated in the middle, frequent eructation, bowels torpid. She received twelve drops of the tincture of Crocus in about four ounces of water, of which two table-spoonfuls were to be taken every hour. Next day she was quite well, and afterwards suffered no further inconvenience.

### IX.

A hemorrhoidal subject, about fifty years of age, who had formerly been operated on for degenerated hemorrhoidal excrescences, and whom I had afterwards once treated for inflamed piles, suffered thereupon from occasional icteric symptoms. There followed upon that a disorder of a peculiar character, of which the following were the chief symptoms:—Fulness and distension of the stomach; eructation and rancid heart-burn; nausea, and at length straining vomiting of variously-degenerated fluids; fine cutting pain, beginning in the region of the heart, then spreading to the region of the stomach and fixing there; abdomen retracted, no stool during the attack, and clysters do not act well, and any artificial evacuation of the bowels affords no relief; pulse slow, seldom above sixty, and intermitting; as also the beat of the heart. Auscultation and percussion show no trace of any organic disease of the heart. At the height of the attack, the patient is seized with such difficulty of breathing that he is scarcely able to contain himself.

I have already treated this state in the same patient pretty frequently, and have had much trouble with it. Many of the medicines employed, such as China, Arnica, Ipec, Digitalis, Colchicum, Belladonna, Laurocerasus, Hyosciamus, Aurum, &c., have left me more or less in the lurch, and afforded, on the whole, only slight and tardy aid, so that this state has several times reached a dangerous height, and lasted above a week.

Crocus, in the dose of one to three drops of the concentrated tincture every hour, or two hours, is the medicine which alone has hitherto quickly and certainly relieved the attack. And this has happened several times visibly, so speedily, that not only after it has the attack ceased, but immediately the appetite has returned, and the digestion and action of the bowels been restored. The first stools are generally pappy, and of a yellow color.

*Remark.*—I have not unfrequently cured

obstinate cases of constipation with Crocus. Their fundamental character is indicated incidentally by the foregoing case, and it is, perhaps, sufficient to add, that those kinds of constipation which depend on disorders of the portal system of veins, such as often happens in new-born children, frequently find their radical cure in Crocus. In such cases, at least in new-born children, I have often seen the exhibition of one drop of the pure tincture of Crocus several times a day, followed by natural evacuations, and have never observed any bad effects from it.

### X.—DIGITALIS.

Josepha N., aged 30, had been ill for about two months, of the following symptoms, which had gradually become worse:—Want of appetite; inconvenience after eating even a small quantity of the lightest food; distension and tenderness of the region of the stomach; wandering pains in different parts of the extremities, which at length increased to a stiffness, painful, particularly on motion; gradual decline of the strength and natural heat of the body; restless, unrefreshing sleep; great depression of mind and despondency. The painful stiffness of the limbs went away after a time; but, on the other hand, intense jaundice spread over the whole body. The region of the stomach became more tender and distended; therewith, disgust for food and frequent nausea, retching, and even vomiting of small quantities of tasteless watery fluid; distended abdomen, and bowels confined for days in succession; urine scanty and dark colored; great prostration of strength, and coldness of the body; melancholy, and disposition to shed tears.

I had visited her on the 8th of February, and given China in the tincture, till the 12th, without any good effect. On this day I gave Digitalis, in the dose of four drops of the concentrated tincture, seven times in the course of twenty-four hours. Thereupon she became sick and inclined to vomit; nevertheless, I let her continue the medicine till the 16th, in the same dose and intervals of repetition. Even by the 14th, improvement had manifested itself, and on the 16th there was desire for food and decline of the jaundice; the urine already almost of its natural color again; the region of the stomach no longer distended and tender; the abdomen likewise no longer distended. On the other hand, there appeared again at times wandering pains in various parts of the body, and a feeling of painful stiffness in the shoulders. The bodily strength increases, and the disposition to weep has ceased, and the patient is even cheerful. The Digitalis was continued till the 20th, in the dose of three drops five times a day.

From this time there was no longer a trace of jaundice. I did not see the patient again till the end of March, and her state of health was then and had been in every way quite good.

**XI.—HYDRARGYRUM MURIATICUM MITE—  
CALOMEL. (TWO CASES.)**

The patient was a girl of four years old, of pale and delicate appearance, with a swelled belly, and often suffered from irregularity of the bowels. Towards the end of November, 1844, she was attacked with diarrhœa, and, according to the report of the father, it was at first accompanied with violent fever, but afterwards of a slow character. The evacuations are preceded by pains which were at first violent, but now milder; the evacuated matters are chiefly white and flocculent. She passes from three to six motions daily. The urine is scanty and turbid, with a white mucous sediment. The child is shy and cross, and disinclined to play. On the 18th of December, she got from me Hyd. mur. mite, in the dose of three grains of the 1st trituration (5 gr. to 300), five times a day: continued for the four following days, three times a day.

On the 20th, the diarrhœa had ceased, and there was no stool at all till the 23d, when it returned, and has continued regular and daily since; the urine has regained its natural appearance, and the patient is in other respects quite well.

**XII.**

A boy of five months old had diarrhœa. His mother was at the time ill of typhus, for which reason the infant had been weaned. The stools are mixed with matters like chopped eggs, acrid, and excoriating the anus, and are passed frequently, with much flatus. The infant is weak and feverish. On the 25th December, I gave Hyd. mur. mite, in the above trituration (three grains), four times a day. Next day the diarrhœa had ceased, and the child was lively and well.

**XIII.—IGNATIA.**

A woman above forty had been ailing for the greater part of the summer of 1844. As she was no friend to physic, she would not have sought medical aid for her complaints, had it not been for the appearances of a new ailment, which excited in her serious apprehensions. This disorder came in paroxysms generally recurring about twice a day, and was of the following description:—An anxiety and disquiet as if she had done something wrong, or as if a great misfortune were about

to happen, so overpowers her, that she can with difficulty refrain from weeping. During this she has oppression of the breathing, but feels distinctly that the oppression begins at the stomach and spreads up into the throat. She is during the time very weak, incapable of work, and disinclined to the company of others. The paroxysm often lasts for hours. She has, besides, no appetite; the bowels are torpid and insufficiently moved, and do not act daily. This irregularity of the bowels always accompanies any illness with her; but on the day that she has no evacuation she always feels much worse, and therefore the action of the bowels is a matter of much moment to her. She has no fever. She first consulted me on the 19th of September, 1844, when these attacks had already troubled her for several weeks.

She got Ignatia: about ten grains of the first trituration—(2-100)—dissolved in four ounces of water, to be taken in five doses in twenty-four hours. The action of this remedy was so strikingly beneficial that she praised it highly at my visit next day, and begged that it might be repeated. It was continued for six or eight days, and by the use of it alone she was freed from her disorder so completely that, after a threatening of it only once on the second and third day, it has never returned since. She also complained no longer of weariness, recovered her looks and appetite and the regularity of the bowels, and, on the whole, her state was so satisfactory that no further medical treatment was required.

[To be Continued.]

**THE BLUNDERS OF PRINTERS.**

PRINTERS by leaving out some and adding other words in a sentence, often make an author say things he never thought of, and on page 152 of this number may be seen an example of another kind of blunder, in which a note intended for the end of an article quoted from the popular record of modern science is placed at the head of that article.